MHS valedictorian prepares for Harvard. PAGE 6
Francisco M. Sablan Middle School promotes 101. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 103

www.saipantribune.com | THURSDAY MAY 25, 2017 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

GAO: NMI has 22 projects in development

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker or CW-1 visa classification facing an uncertain future, there are a total of 22 projects in development in the Commonwealth including six new hotels on Saipan and two casino resorts on Tinian, based on data obtained by the United States Government Accountability Office.

GAO representatives visited Saipan in December last year to gather data and other information through

See GAO on Page 4

Dynasty ordered to pay $191,400 in civil penalty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday ordered the owners of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino to pay $191,400 in civil penalty to the U.S. Labor secretary for their willful and repeat violations of the overtime provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Manglona issued the order in granting the U.S. Labor secretary

See DYNASTY on Page 4

Luhk sisters still missing 6 years after

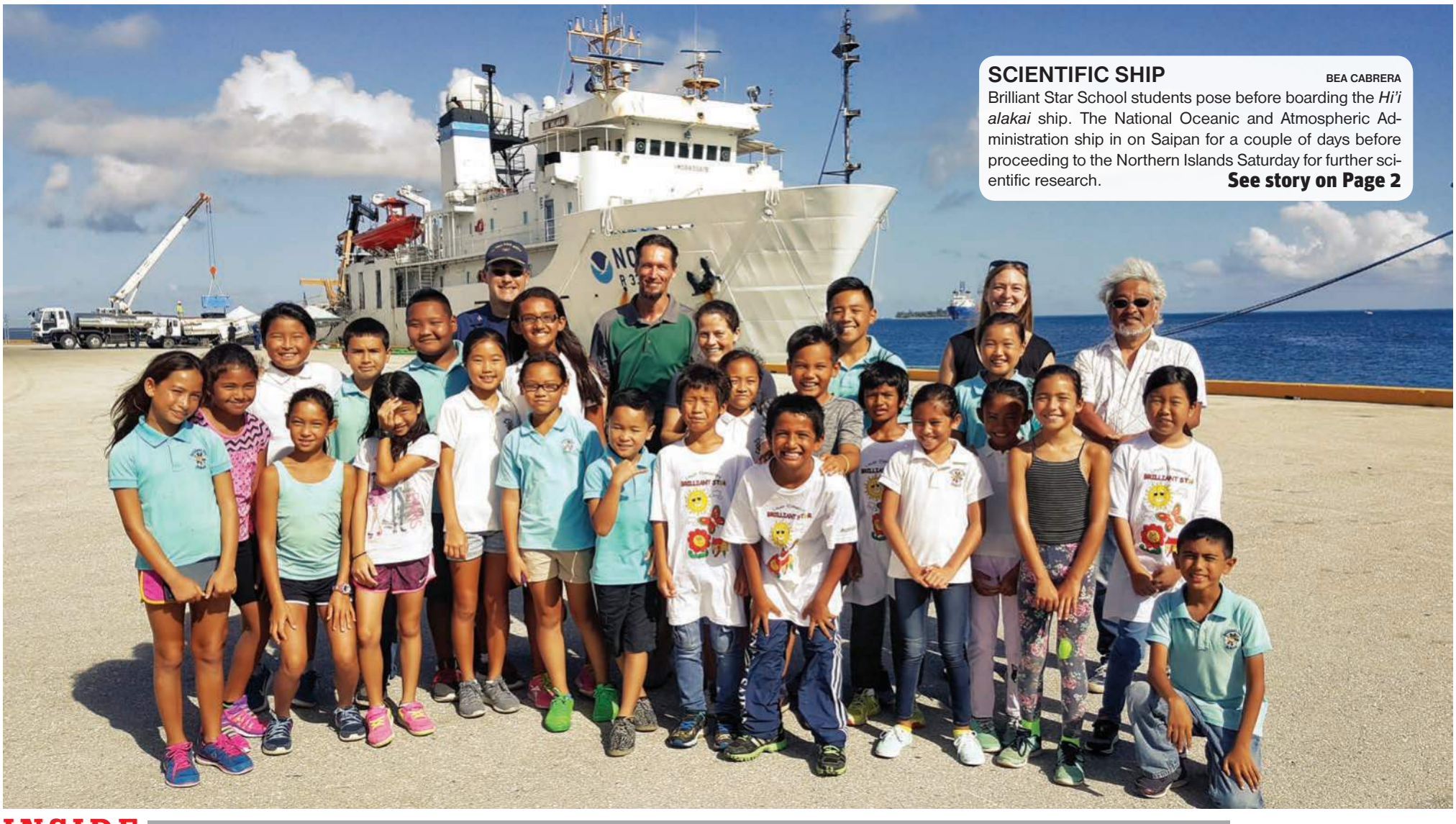
» Family assured by FBI that there is no let up in the investigation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Today, Thursday, marks the sixth year of the mysterious disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk near a public school bus pavilion in As Teo, with still no trace of the children.

In an interview yesterday, Elbert Quitugua, grandfather of the Lukh

See LUHK on Page 4



SCIENTIFIC SHIP BEA CABRERA

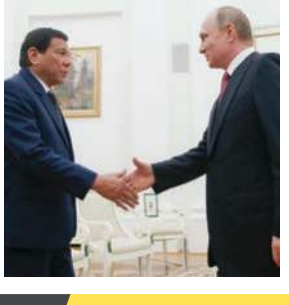
Brilliant Star School students pose before boarding the *Hi'i alakai* ship. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship in on Saipan for a couple of days before proceeding to the Northern Islands Saturday for further scientific research.

See story on Page 2

INSIDE

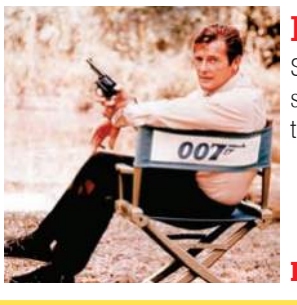
LOCAL
The first ever Marianas Visitors Authority BBQ Pork Ribs Cookoff was topped by Spencer Marchadesch and Angelo Camacho.

PAGE 9



ASIA
Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte warned Wednesday that he'll be harsh in enforcing martial law in his country's south.

PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE
Sir Roger Moore always made sure to laugh at himself before the audience could.

PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

NOAA ship docks on Saipan

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's ship *Hi"ialakai* has docked on Saipan and will be on island for a couple of days before proceeding to the Northern Island to conduct more marine ecosystem research.

Hi'ialakai is a Hawaiian word that means embracing the pathway to the sea and the ship is definitely living up to its name in terms of research and study.

The ship's main mission is to conduct scientific diving operations that allow the team of scientists to do underwater ecosystem mapping, coral reef monitoring, fish studies, and update nautical charts. The ship has a fish team, oceanographic team, and habitat team composed of scientists that makes sure the projects are carried out.

Terril Efird, from the ship's Emergency Notification System, gave a brief history of how the ship became the *Hi'ialakai* of today.

"The ship was built during the Cold War era late 1984 as a sub-listening vessel in the North Sea. At the end of the Cold War, the ship was given to the Coast Guard who used it for drug interdiction. Later on, they realized that a 10-knot ship is not a great speed for drug interdiction. Since the ship was a sub-listening vessel (it makes no extra sound entering the water) and it can take on scientific instrumentation, it was a great research platform for fisheries and mapping."

The ship is self-sufficient. It houses the crew and scientists in comfortable bunks, a mess hall that manages to house 50 people, laboratories, a pressurized chamber called the hyperbaric chamber. "We operate in some remote places in the Pacific so we are our own emergency notification system. We have a public health service medical officer, hospital, 911, firefighters." Efird added.

Kelly Bearden, marine research coordinator, is in charge of studying invertebrates. "We use these gray structures called autonomous monitoring structures or arms units. They are essentially like a reef condo/hotel. We attach them to a reef let it sit there for three years. When we return, we encapsulate them and bring them to the surface. It houses mobile fauna not greater than 2mm in size like fish, crabs, worms, and snails."

On what gives the crew satisfaction after a day of research and study, NOAA Fisheries chief scientist Kelvin Gorospe said, "I find satisfaction in the educational component of our work. Reefs are overlooked. They are important eco-biologically. Corals are so sensitive to temperature and water chemistry changes. Educating the children, the next generation, about these things is what keeps us love what we do."

Brilliant Star School grade 3-6 students joined the tour.

"Seeing the ship and learning what it does is a good learning opportunity for the kids. They can follow the trips and the scientists on line. They can see what the scientists are working on: research and surveying. They can see it online now in the tour, they will experience this in real life," said Brilliant Star principal Richard Sikkel.

The result of the days, months, and years of research go to public use and benefit.

Steve Mckagan, fisheries and coral reef biologist, said, "The coral reef program have their own website where they post all of the information that they gathered. You can keep track of the studies and even contact the scientists involved. The public can access this data portal for free."

The ship started its journey this year from Honolulu, made a trip to Jarvis Island, Baker Island (down the Equator), back to Wake Island, and finally came to Guam. It has spent 21 days working around Guam, Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and surrounding islands.

Through all of these voyages, commanding officer and ship captain Elizabeth Kretovic leads the ship. "I've been running the ship for a year and a half now. Basically, all the responsibility of the ship is on my shoulders. I am in charge of the safety on the ship and make sure that all mission gets completed safely and accurately."

On Saturday, May 27, the ship will head on and continue its research and study to the Northern Islands. It will spend 27 days around the islands to collect samples and visit instrumentations. After which, the ship and its crew will head back to its mother port in Honolulu.

BEA CABRERA

The *Hi'i alakai* ship at the Port of Saipan before heading to the Northern Islands to conduct more marine ecosystem research.

BEA CABRERA

Scientist Kelly Bearden shows a specimen of a snapping shrimp. "They make the cracking sound like Rice Crispies underwater," she said.

BEA CABRERA

Terril Efird, center, and the rest of the ENS team brief the visitors at the entrance of the ship.

Balloon
Fun Run, Walk & Roll
Women's Health Month
2017
Your health at every age.
Date: May 27, 2017
Location: Filcom Pavillion at Civic Center
Time: 6AM - 10AM
Event Includes:
• Run, Walk & Roll - 5K
• Batting Demonstration Station
• Soccer Demonstration Station
• Soccer Demonstration Station
• Baseball Demonstration Station
Raffle Drawings and prizes:
• The 1st 100 participants gets a tshirt.
• The "Most Shared" Facebook posts of the event.
• First 3 participants who complete the Run, Walk & Roll event by age groups.
Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar Screenings will be available.
Brought to you by:
IMPERIAL PACIFIC
CWCC
MHS
DIVISION OF SPORTS & RECREATION
Commonwealth Cancer Association
For more information call: Contact person: 670-664-8705

KHS' last class of the '90s graduate

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 102 senior graduates of Kagman High School, which is also the school's last class of the 1990s, graduated yesterday at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

Class of 2017's valedictorian and Million Dollar Scholar Kycel P. Butters is headed to Virginia's Hollins University under a full scholarship majoring in psychology.

Butters mentioned that finishing school and obtaining a degree is at the top of her priorities.

"I am just really happy because I have been working really hard since elementary. This is the only thing I would like to do for my parents," she said.

"I plan to come back [to Saipan] after college for sure, I am just not sure when yet," said Butters when asked about returning to the CNMI after college.

Kycel P. Butters
Valedictorian

Iramhel N. Talon
Salutatorian

Butters was also accepted in the University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado State University, Rocky Mountain College in Montana, and George Mason University in Virginia.

She also received English, mathematics, science, Japanese, and physical education departmental content area awards as well as the outstanding female graduate award.

KHS class of 2017 salutatorian Iramhel N. Talon would be attending the Northern Marianas College this coming semester.

Talon said she plans to pursue a degree majoring in education, specifically in rehabilitation and human services.

"I like helping and guiding people," said Talon when asked why she wished to pursue such a degree.

Talon added that she wishes to return to KHS as a counselor before thinking of possibly pursuing a doctorate in the future.

Besides being announced as Class of 2017's salutatorian, Talon received the social studies and Japanese departmental content area awards as well.

Also honored during the

See KHS on Next Page

ERWIN ENCINARES

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres delivers his keynote address to the Kagman High School's Class 2017 during their graduating ceremony yesterday at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

Santos: Don't use the poor as excuse

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate Committee on Health and Welfare chair Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) has advised the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. management not to use the poor as an excuse in plans of establishing its own pharmacy.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muna is looking into no longer renewing PHI Pharmacy's lease at the hospital, which is set to expire on Aug. 14 this year.

She plans to have CHCC take over the pharmaceutical needs of its patients where she is proposing that the CNMI apply under the United States government's 340B Drug Pricing Discount Program.

The program, established in 1992, requires drug manufactures to provide outpatient drugs and other prescribed medicines to eligible healthcare organizations and entities at a considerably reduced price.

Muna said they began discussing the 340B Drug Discount program with representatives of the Office of Pharmacy Affairs, which is under the Department of Health and Human Services' Human Resources and Services Administration.

"The conclusion of those discussions was that the only way for the CHCC's outpatient clinics, with the exception of the Kagman Community Health Center, which is already eligible, would be to register these clinics as federally qualified health centers or 'look-a-likes.' This is a complex and daunting process with many requirements to fulfill," said Muna in a letter to Committee vice chair Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan).

"Fortunately though, very recently, the Office of Pharmacy Affairs advised the CHCC that we should apply during the next application period in July as a disproportionate share hospital. It was previously believed that the CHCC did not qualify for this status due to its location in a non-U.S. state and the CNMI's ineligibility for the DSH funding adjustment."

Muna said the CHCC would still attempt to register, using the DSH designation, to be a 340B covered entity thru HRSA when the registration period begins on July 2.

Santos, however, is suggesting otherwise and does not support CHCC's plan to replace PHI Pharmacy with its own to assist low-income outpatients. "When government competes directly [against] private firms, the net result is chaos on several fronts especially when vital services are provided for our people and community."

"In the first instance, it is highly doubtful the PHI Pharmacy has committed an egregious failure in its contract or service to outpatient here. In fact, it is deafening that no one has complained of it service at both CHCC and its outlet in Dandan."

She said that PHI has invested in the CNMI through employment and training of its local staff and suggested that CHCC should focus on improving their services instead. "We should not use the poor as an excuse to overlook the fact as the same are covered sufficiently by Medicaid."

"To concoct a pharmacy by ousting a fully poised firm now in place would mean passing along another layer of costs to taxpayers unnecessarily. CHCC must focus on improving patient care and spend public funds where it counts—blankets, pillows, bed sheets, toiletries, and most importantly vital medical equipment."

Customers First
TRIPLE J
SPRING INTO SAVINGS
2017
MAZDA6
• Fuel-efficient 4-cyl. Engine
• Automatic Transmission
• Keyless Entry with Push-button Start
• Back-up Camera & Monitor
• USB, Bluetooth
• 4-Wheel ABS
UP TO 35 MPG
STARTING AT $22,995
OR AS LOW AS $163 PER PAYCHECK
Receive $500 in Truckload Store
Shopping certificates with the purchase of a new Mazda6!
TRUCKLOAD STORE
Customers First
TRIPLE J
TRIPLE J MOTORS
Beach Road, Chalan LauLau
Open: Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm
Tel: 234-7133/234-3051
WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM
mazda
Like us on facebook
Triple J Motors, Saipan
*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2,500. While supplies last. Mazda6i Sport: total price is $22,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $354.79 or $163 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $21,287.40.

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Trump proposes $591.9M budget for territories, FAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Donald Trump yesterday proposed $591.9 million for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) for the benefit of the U.S. Territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands through the Office of Insular Affairs.The budget request for OIA includes $84.3 million in discretionary appropriations and $507.6 million in mandatory funding. Additionally, the budget requests $123.9 million of discretionary Department of Defense appropriations to be transferred to the Department of the Interior to support enactment of the 2010 Compact Review Agreement with Palau. The Palau Compact is an important element of the Pacific national security strategy.

"While we continue to support all of our U.S. insular areas, we have long been striving to meet our commitments to the Republic of Palau," said Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula. "President Trump's strong support for the Palau Compact shows that he recognizes the strategic importance of our U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States."

"The Territories and Freely Associated States are absolutely critical to the strategic readiness of the United States, and they are part of the fabric of who we are as fellow Americans," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. "President Trump's budget proposal makes it abundantly clear that these lands, often on the front lines of escalating tensions, are under our protection and serve vital importance. The President's budget balances these priorities and commitments to the Insular Areas with his promise to make government work for the taxpayer again and support a balanced budget by 2027," Secretary Zinke said.

The President's budget allows Interior's Office of Insular Affairs to carry out its core mission of empowering insular area communities by improving quality of life, creating economic opportunity, and promoting efficient and effective governance. The funding allows OIA to continue providing grants for technical assistance, implementing sustainable energy plans and invasive species control.

To download the DOI Budget in Brief click this link: https://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2018/highlights. ***(PR)***

Bordallo: Trump proposed budget detrimental

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo yesterday issued the following statement regarding President Trump's budget proposal for fiscal year 2018.

"President Trump's FY18 budget proposal is detrimental to working families and would significantly slash health care, education, and job opportunities for millions of Americans. His proposal guts non-defense spending at every level of government and imposes harmful cuts to important programs like Medicaid, CHIP, student loans, environmental protection, coastal and ocean research and management, and small business assistance. Furthermore, deep cuts to the Department of State, USAID, and related programs are unacceptable and would withdraw the United States from our global leadership role, leaving populations around the world vulnerable and undermining our national security. In fact, these cuts in 'soft power' programs undermine our Indo-Asia-Pacific rebalance strategy."

Bordallo added that the President's budget is particularly concerning for Guam and the other territories as it decimates critical programs administered by the Office of Insular Affairs. The President's budget eliminates $3 million in discretionary funding for Compact impact, $800,000 in technical assistance, and $650,000 in Brown Tree Snake Control programs.

"I am encouraged, though, that funding was included to execute the Palau Compact. While this funding is critical to strengthening our relationships in the region, I am concerned about the management of the program under OIA and believe that it may be more appropriately administered under the State Department or other appropriate agency. We have heard the concerns raised by the Freely Associated States about execution of the Compacts. If Interior is unable to come up with the funding it is appropriate for Congress to look carefully at how this program is operating," she said.

The Guam delegate also said she is disappointed that the President did not include an appropriation for war claims.

"I had written to the administration at the start of the Trump presidency to request a direct appropriation so that administering this program would hold Guam's treasury harmless. His proposal does request $79 million in mandatory spending for Section 30, so there will be funding available to ensure that our survivors receive their claim. I continue to work to find an alternative funding solution that does not rely on Section 30, but the President's budget does make that case more difficult. I hope that Governor Calvo will weigh in with the administration and support my efforts on war claims."

Bordallo said Trump's budget proposal makes his administration's priorities clear and will significantly harm the middle class and those who most need help. ***(PR)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

KHS

From Page 3

graduation was Alfred N. Ngalongalo who received the Marine Corps' scholastic excellence award and the Mayor of Saipan Community Service Award. Brittney Hamilton was also a recipient of the Marine Corps' scholastic excellence award as well.

KHS calls the 2017 graduates last of 1990s since from here on out those graduating from the school are born in the year 2000 and up.

LUHK

From Page 1

sisters, said they will offer prayers at the 6pm Mass today at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman.

Quitugua said they are asking the community for their help to report to the Federal Bureau of Investigation should they have any information.

He disclosed that the FBI has actually been briefing him on the issue, assuring him they are not making this matter a cold case. "They are still actively pursuing… doing diligent investigation. They are still not letting it sleep as a cold case. They are still pursuing the investigation," Quitugua said.

He said last month a staff from the FBI support center in Honolulu came and assured him that they are still not stopping the investigation.

"They are still actively doing something about it. Other than that, the family is struggling to find closure," he said.

The parents of the children have been separated. The mother moved to Virginia from Guam a year ago. The father was last reported staying in Pohnpei.

Then 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina Luhk were last seen on May 25, 2011, waiting for a school bus near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo.

The sisters' disappearance resulted in the most extensive search of missing persons in CNMI history for several months. A tracking dog from Hawaii was even flown to the island to conduct searches.

DYNASTY

From Page 1

and co-defendants' motion for summary judgment as to all three claims filed by the Tinian Dynasty owner, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. (HKE), and HKE president Kwan Man.

The judge ruling also affirmed the U.S. Department of Labor's Administrative Review Board's final decision issued on Nov. 25, 2014 that assessed such civil money penalty against HKE and Man.

Manglona concluded that, as a matter of law, the compliance agreement entered by HKE and the Labor secretary did not preclude the imposition of civil money penalties for HKE's violations of the overtime provisions of the FLSA.

Manglona determined that the Labor secretary has demonstrated the absence of a genuine dispute as to a material fact as the propriety of the administrator's assessment of $191,400 in civil money penalties, as well as the holding of the Labor Administrative Law Judge and the Labor Administrative Review Board upholding the imposition of such penalties.

On Aug. 31, 2007, Terrence Trotter, then-assistant district director for the Hawaii District Labor's Wage and Hour Division (administrator) assessed the civil money penalties against HKE and Raymond Chan, then-financial controller for Tinian Dynasty and signatory to the compliance agreement, for willful and repeated violations of the FLSA during the period from March 16, 2007 to May 26, 2007.

On Feb. 4, 2011, the administrator assessed the civil money penalties for the same FLSA violations against Man.

Manglona said HKE has failed to show that the Labor's Administrative Review Board's decision to affirm the Labor Administrative Law Judge is unsupported by the administrative record, or that it is arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise contrary to law.

In December 2014, HKE and Man filed the lawsuit against then-U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez and several other Labor officials for allegedly violating their due process right over their assessment of civil penalty of $191,400.

HKE and Man brought the court action for a judicial review of the decisions of the Labor secretary and other Labor officials.

HKE and Man asked the court to reverse the Labor's Administrative Review Board's final decision and order and to set aside the ARB's order assessing the civil penalty.

The plaintiffs asked the court to remand the matter back to a Labor Administrative Law Judge with instructions to hold a hearing on the merits regarding the propriety of the civil monetary penalty amount assessed against them.

Defendants Labor secretary and co-defendants then asked the court to issue a summary judgment to their favor.

The defendants have asserted, among other things, that the civil money penalty assessment was both fair and reasonable given plaintiffs' repeat violations of FLSA.

GAO

From Page 1

fieldwork and interviews from employers, employees, and government officials. CNMI's immigration and minimum wage issues were the basis of the research requested by the U.S. Congress.

"Amid the uncertainty of the future availability of foreign labor, the CNMI government has granted zoning permits to planned projects that will require thousands of additional workers," said the GAO report.

"Twenty-two development projects, including six new hotels or casinos on Saipan and two new hotels or casinos on Tinian, are planned for construction or renovation by 2019," it added.

The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, according to the report, estimated that more than 8,000 workers would be needed to support the operations of the new hotels and casinos once the projects are completed.

"According to data [BECQ] provided, most of this planned labor demand is for development on the island of Tinian, where two businesses plan to build casino resorts, with an estimated labor demand of 6,359 workers for operations—more than twice the island's population in 2016," said GAO's report.

The Tinian Dynasty & Casino once operated in the CNMI's Second Senatorial District but it closed after being slapped a $75-million fine by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network on June 3, 2015 on violations of the Bank Secrecy Act of 1970.

FinCEN fined Tinian Dynasty after the casino resort failed to develop and implement an anti-money laundering program. FinCEN found out Tinian Dynasty transacted with guests that have large amounts of cash with the casino failing to declare or report the transactions as required by the Bank Secrecy Act.

Federal Labor's Wage and Hour Division also found out that Tinian Dynasty did not pay their employees the minimum wage and overtime

The GAO report said one of the two Tinian investors offers overseas immigration services, including assistance in obtaining work and investment-based immigration to the U.S. mainland.

"We observed a billboard advertisement on Tinian with Chinese writing indicating that by investing in a new development in Tinian, an investor's family members would all get American green cards," the GAO report said.

"This resort development, whose plans estimate a labor force of 859, has undertaken site preparation while the other larger resort project, whose plans estimate a labor force of 5,500, had not initiated construction as of December 2016."

GAO also sited the CNMI lacking a planning agency or a process that would ensure planned projects are within their available workforce.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) has introduced Senate Bill 20-2 that would establish the Office of Planning Development under the Governor's Office. The Senate has passed the bill, which would help manage the rapid economic growth the CNMI is currently experiencing.

$100K cash bail imposed on poker robbery suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio yesterday maintained the $100,000 cash bail that was initially imposed on Marlon Martin, an ex-convict who was arrested shortly after he allegedly robbed a poker establishment in Chalan Kanoa last Monday.

Martin, 33, was taken to court on charges of robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, theft, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Martin

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas said the charges carry a total maximum sentence of 47 years imprisonment.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Martin.

Sources said Martin is also a suspect in other robberies at poker arcades and other establishments on Saipan.

According to court documents, police found Martin hiding inside a residence located in the back area of Viva Poker.

Sources said Martin's girlfriend is a CNM Judiciary marshal who got hired only a few months ago.

While conducting a pat down, police detective George David discovered $500 in Martin's crotch area and also found a hammer and the exact clothing that he used in the robbery.

Another detective also found a large amount of money in his girlfriend's room closet. The girlfriend denied she owns the money.

The report did not mention the amount of money. A source, however, disclosed that it's about $900.

Police detective Jackson K. Davis stated in his report that preliminary investigation showed that on Monday at 11:58am, the Department of Public Safety Dispatch Center received a call about a robbery in progress at Viva Poker in Chalan Kanoa.

When a police officer arrived in the parking lot of Bank of Guam located across Viva Poker, he met with an eyewitness, who stated that while she was waiting outside the bank, she heard an alarm coming from the poker establishment.

The eyewitness said she then saw a man, who was clad in a black hoody over his head, running out from Viva Poker. The man, who was observed to have been carrying what appeared to be a tire wrench, ran toward an open lot that leads to Petra Avenue.

The officer proceeded to Viva Poker at 12:05pm, and saw the female cashier crying and rubbing her left temple.

The cashier told police that while she was in the cashier's booth, she heard the suspect yelling to her that the machine was broken.

The cashier looked at the camera monitor and saw that it was a man wearing a black hoody and sitting and playing at machine No. 10.

The cashier said she did not suspect anything because it was day time. When she opened the door of the cashier's booth to check, the suspect grabbed and pushed her toward the cash register.

The cashier screamed, but the suspect, in a Palauan accent, told her he would not hurt her if she would just give the money.

The suspect grabbed the money from the tray and ran toward the back door where he left his bicycle. The cashier sounded the alarm, prompting the suspect to run from the front door, leaving his bicycle behind.

» **Police look into strong possibility ex-convict also involved in series of robberies**

Police learned that the suspect managed to run away with over $1,000. The establishment later learned that $2,777 was stolen.

During the search around the vicinity of the establishment, two other responding officers found $100 in $10 bills held with a paper clip on the roadway a few feet from the residence of Martin's girlfriend.

Police reviewed the surveillance camera and confirmed that the suspect came out from the residence of Martin's girlfriend.

The footage showed that the suspect rode his bicycle and proceeded to Viva Poker.

The footage also confirmed the cashier's statement as to how the suspect staged the robbery.

After robbing the establishment, the suspect ran back toward the front door area of his girlfriend's house.

While canvassing the surrounding area of the house, the girlfriend arrived and allowed the officers to search her residence at 1pm.

At 1:27pm, one officer found Martin hiding between some shelves and arrested him.

In April 2010, the Superior Court slapped a seven-year prison term on Martin after he pleaded guilty to armed robbery at 24 Hours Pawnshop in Chalan Kanoa on Oct. 23, 2009.

Martin and co-defendant, Fernando C. Quitano, both wearing masks, smashed the cashier's booth and attacked the employees and a 73-year-old man with a crowbar and sledgehammer.

Quitano was convicted and got a 42-year prison sentence in 2011.

Martin had also several criminal convictions in the past.

Local delegation passes Zoning bills

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed two local bills—House Local Bills 20-5 and 20-10 that would rezone certain areas on the island from rural to commercial and tourist resort.

Delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) introduced both bills, which is now with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for signing.

HLB 20-5 would amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map Sheets 3 and of 29 where 18 of the 20 SNILD members present voting yes while 20-10 would amend the SOZM 20 of 29 where one opting to not support the measure.

House minority leader Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan) voted no to HLB 20-5, while the latter was the lone SNILD member that opposed HLB 20-10.

Several lots classified as rural and rural/village commercial would be rezoned to tourist resort once the new zoning district is enacted under HLB 20-5. Several lots from Susupe would be rezoned from "village residential" to "village commercial" on HLB 20-10.

SNILD believes it is appropriate to rezone the districts that the Commonwealth Zoning Board recommended to be rezoned. Zoning first held public meetings before submitting to the delegation about their findings and decision.

The delegation agreed on the evaluation made by Zoning's staff and the evidence presented during the public hearing.

"The delegation agrees that rezoning these areas is in the best interests of the community," wrote chair Sablan on the bill. ***(Jon Perez)***

INFINITELY
MORE
SAMSUNG GALAXY S8 | S8+
$99 | $199
Enjoy the freedom of more streaming, more sharing, and more living with a motion postpaid plan and double data with every new Samsung Galaxy S8 or S8+ purchase.
10GB $50
20GB $70
40GB $80
All plans include UNLIMITED TALK & TEXT
IT&E
682 4ITE | www.ite.net
*Terms and conditions apply. See stores for details.

MHS valedictorian prepares for Harvard

Robert Jomar S. Malate
Valedictorian

Yuuki Nishida
Salutatorian

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 315 senior graduates received their diplomas Tuesday at the Marianas High School campus grounds. ERWIN ENCINARES

Of the 315 graduates of Marianas High School's Class of 2017, valedictorian Robert Jomar S. Malate is preparing to begin his college life at Harvard University this fall semester.

Malate, who also applied to several Ivy League schools, was accepted at the University of Evansville, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Seattle University.

"I am really trying to spend some time with my friends, have fun in the island, and really preparing myself for the challenges up ahead," he said during an interview after the MHS graduation last Tuesday on campus grounds.

Malate would be pursuing a mechanical engineering degree at Harvard.

Malate said he wanted to keep learning, and that the only way he sees himself learning constantly is through college.

"I expect a lot of struggle; I expect a lot of hard work; I expect a lot of loneliness; I expect to meet a lot of new friends; and learn a lot of new things," Malate said.

Having thought of pursuing a mechanical engineering degree since his sophomore year, Malate owes it to joining the MHS' Aeronautical Dolphins team, claiming that working hard for the team showed him he had the "passion for engineering."

"I just feel everything is being rushed. I wish time can stop [or] slow down so I can enjoy the moment but this moment is fast and I just want to move on," said Malate, describing the graduation as one of his greatest moments in life.

MHS salutatorian Yuuki Nishida, who also received the Governor's Leadership Award and the Lt. Governor's Academic Award along with Malate, is seeking to pursue a degree in journalism at Massachusetts' Northeastern University.

Expecting to leave late August, Nishida is looking forward to a whole new experience of internships in the mainland.

"[I am expecting] to experience a little cooperative education and hopefully find a job immediately after I graduate; maybe sometime [after], come back here and contribute to the community," said Nishida when asked about his future plans.

MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera proudly congratulated the MHS Class of 2017.

"I am just so excited for them; I celebrate with them," she said.

"This group is innovative; they want to try new things; they are unafraid and ready to go out into the world and do awesome things. I am excited for them, and I give them all my love and my congratulations; it has been an honor to [have served] as their principal," she said.

The MHS Class of 2017 keynote speaker, MHS alumnae Sonya Dancoe, left the students with a quote worth remembering.

"By treating each and every single human being with dignity and respect, you can make a difference and make this world a better place," she said in her speech.

COVMS promotes 91 to HS

Seiji S. Gonzales
Valedictorian

Jennifer L. Crolla
Salutatorian

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chacha Ocean View Middle School promoted 91 seniors to high school yesterday. ERWIN ENCINARES

The 91 8th graders of Chacha Ocean View Middle School were promoted yesterday to high school, with Seiji Maga'lahi S. Gonzales leading the class as valedictorian and Jennifer L. Crolla as salutatorian.

Gonzales, who is set to attend Kagman High School, said his experience in middle school was unique despite all the ups and downs he experienced emotionally.

"Despite the constant pressure from systematic unending flow of schoolwork, I remained steadfastly focused and giving up was never an option," said Gonzales in his valedictory address after starting off with a Chamorro speech.

Crolla, who would be attending Marianas High School, has only been in COVMS for two years.

"What I love most about this school is that fact that the teachers and students here treat each other as if they were family," said Crolla.

"I hope that I will be able to feel the same way [in high school]," she added.

Gonzales also received the Chamorro Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies award and the English Language Art award besides being valedictorian, while salutatorian Crolla received the social studies, science, and math awards.

The computer application award went to Jordan C. Towai, while the Marlyn I. Dawe received the leadership award.

COVMS' Class 2017 garnered a total of 19 gold presidential award recipients and 31 silver presidential award recipients.

CRIMES OF THE WEEK

Robbery at Smile Poker

The NMI Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a robbery incident that occurred at Smile Poker located in Chalan Kanoa. Last Monday morning, May 22, 2017, at about 5:04am, the Department of Public Safety responded to an incident and found the security guard, a 62-year-old Filipino male injured on his forehead.

Police learned that the suspect described as a male, about 5'5" tall, dark skin, dark jacket with a hood, dark boots, dark mask, walked into the poker room and sat down at a machine. His hood was obstructing the mask and witnesses could not see the suspect's face. The suspect complained to the cashier that his poker machine was broken.

The cashier exited the cashier booth and approached the suspect who turned exposing his masked face and armed with a hammer. The suspect demanded money from the cashier. The cashier took out his wallet and the suspect grabbed the wallet and ran to the entrance of the poker room. The security guard intercepted the suspect at the front door entrance but was struck on his forehead by the fleeing suspect. The suspect escaped with the cashier's wallet containing $60 cash. The victim was transported by Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services ambulance to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. emergency room for injury to his forehead.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call.

Anyone having information about these crimes, or any other crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. ***(PR)***

Rape incident in Susupe

The NMI Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a rape incident that occurred at a residence near the Joeten Warehouse, Susupe Village. On early Saturday morning, May 20, at 4:27am, the Department of Public Safety responded to the incident and learned that the victim, a 37-year-old local female was asleep when the suspect broke into her home, put a knife against her neck, and raped her. The victim was able to take the knife and hide it from the suspect who fled the scene.

The suspect was described as a male, light skin color, black shoulder length hair, and with a local accent. The victim was escorted immediately to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. where she was examined and released to a victim's shelter.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call.

Anyone having information about these crimes, or any other crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. ***(PR)***

TOC PARTICIPANTS

APPRECIATION
DISCOUNT COUPON available.

20% DISCOUNT at The Grill Restaurant and **$40 Green Free** East or West Course (with Free coupon of Driving Range Balls.)

22nd ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

May 27 & 28, 2017
LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort

6:00 AM Showtime
7:00 AM Shotgun Start both days
www.tocsaipan.com

2017 GOVERNOR'S TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS PRIZES

Championship Flight	
1st Place	Trophy + $500.00
2nd Place	Trophy + $400.00
3rd Place	Trophy + $300.00
4th Place	Samsung Galaxy Tab
5th Place	$100 DFS Gift Certificate
"A" Flight	
1st Place	Trophy + $500.00
2nd Place	Trophy + $400.00
3rd Place	Trophy + $300.00
4th Place	Samsung Galaxy Tab
5th Place	$100 DFS Gift Certificate
"B" Flight	
1st Place	Trophy + $500.00
2nd Place	Trophy + $400.00
3rd Place	Trophy + $300.00
4th Place	Samsung Galaxy Tab
5th Place	$100 DFS Gift Certificate
"C" Flight	
1st Place	Trophy + $500.00
2nd Place	Trophy + $400.00
3rd Place	Trophy + $300.00
4th Place	Samsung Galaxy Tab
5th Place	$100 DFS Gift Certificate
Seniors Flight	
1st Place	Trophy + $500.00
2nd Place	Trophy + $400.00
3rd Place	Trophy + $300.00
4th Place	Samsung Galaxy Tab
5th Place	$100 DFS Gift Certificate
Super Seniors	
1st Place	Trophy + $500.00
2nd Place	Trophy + $400.00
3rd Place	Trophy + $300.00
4th Place	Samsung Galaxy Tab
5th Place	$100 DFS Gift Certificate
Ladies Low Gross	
1st Place	Trophy + $500.00
2nd Place	Trophy + $400.00
3rd Place	Trophy + $300.00
Ladies Low Net	
1st Place	Trophy
2nd Place	Trophy
3rd Place	Trophy

HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZES:

PRIZE VEHICLE MAY NOT BE EXACTLY AS SHOWN

2017 HONDA CIVIC HATCHBACK
Sponsored by JOETEN MOTORS

2017 HYUNDAI GRAND SANTA FE
Sponsored by TRIPLE J MOTORS

2017 50TH EDITION TOYOTA COROLLA LE
Sponsored by ATKINS KROLL

$10,000 CASH *Sponsored by* Pacifica Insurance — PLUS $100 Closest to PIN (each day)

$5,000 CASH *Sponsored by* McDonald's Saipan

1 year of FREE GOLF *Sponsored by* LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort

$1,000 CASH Closest to PIN ($500 each day)

[1] Round Trip Ticket to China *Donated by* SAIPAN TRAVEL INC. 塞班國際旅游有限公司

[1] Round Trip Ticket to Europe *Donated by* ASIANA AIRLINES — A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

[1] Round Trip Ticket to US/Canada *Donated by* DELTA

PLATINUM

DFS | GALLERIA | LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT | MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY | The Marianas: Saipan | Tinian | Rota | CHIVAS

GOLD

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU | NIKEGOLF | TRIPLE J MOTORS NEW CARS · USED CARS · PARTS · SERVICE | TOYOTA Let's Go Places | pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. Rest Assured. | BRIDGE CAPITAL LLC | IT&E Life In Motion | SCS Saipan Computer Services | IDEAL SIGNS | HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN | Tan Holdings | Tan Siu Lin Foundation | SORENSEN MEDIA GROUP

SILVER

MARPAC • The Wine Shop at DFS • Pacific Islands Club • Chong's Corporation • KZMI
Asiana Airlines • Marianas Business Journal • Marianas Variety • Hard Rock Café

BRONZE

Calvo Insurance • Chelu Photos • Marianas Noni • McDonald's • Hans Trade Corporation • Empress Inc. • Saipan Travel Inc.
Delta Airlines • Docomo • Mariana Breeze • TDI • Triple B Forwarders • Mayhan Industry • JC Tenorio Enterprises • Kautz Glass
Marianas Meat Harvesting Corp. • Herman's Modern Bakery • First Hawaiian Bank • Imperial Pacific International

GENERAL

Saipan Ice & Water • Saipan Shipping • Asia 360 • Tropical Laundry • Marianas Resort & Spa • Hermes Boutique

OVER HUNDRED THOUSANDS DOLLARS IN POSSIBLE PRIZES!

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School promotes 101

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School promoted 101 students when it conducted a promotional ceremony last Tuesday at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

The 8th graders of the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School were promoted to the high school level. Out of the 101 students that were promoted, 96 students were present during the promotional ceremony to receive their promotional certificates.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School held a promotion ceremony to 101 8th grade students last Tuesday at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's keynote speaker for their 2017 promotional ceremony was associate commissioner of Administrative Services Glenn P. Muna.

In his speech, Muna compares the transition to high school to the ocean and its waves, constantly changing.

According to Muna, entering high school is like entering unchartered waters but the waves of change will determine the direction each student chooses to take.

"Some of you will catch the same wave and stick together, some will venture out and catch their own waves and make new friends," said Muna. "Whatever wave you choose to be on, be prepared for the unexpected," added Muna.

Muna inspired the students to be prepared and to enjoy the ride but to stay focused.

Elisha Posadas
Valedictorian

Ghessa Belnas
Salutatorian

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School valedictorian Elisha Posadas inspired her fellow classmates to be the best possible person they can be as they enter high school and to learn from failures that they encounter along the way.

Posadas was awarded an academic excellence award in computer literacy 3, academic excellence award in social studies, the Board of Education Award, and the valedictorian plaque.

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School salutatorian Ghessa Belnas received an academic excellence award in mathematics, language arts, and science. Belnas also received the Commissioner of Education Award.

65 hurdle AHLEI hospitality training course

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kbautista1222@gmail.com
REPORTER

A total of 65 high school students completed the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute hospitality training course and received their certification last Monday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Students from Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, and Kagman High School entered the AHLEI's hospitality training program and were certified last Monday. According to the roster provided by Island training Solutions administrator Maureen Sebangiol, 21 students were certified from SSHS, 25 students were certified from MHS, and 19 were certified from KHS.

AHLEI's hospitality training program is a federally funded program that is offered to graduating high school seniors to give them an advantage over competitors who are also entering the hospitality workforce.

According to guest speaker Wendl Herring, tourism is the islands' leading industry and hopes that the graduates consider to pursue tourism and hospitality as a career even after the training program has certified them.

Among the 65 students who were certified, 18 were certified with honors. There were three honorees from SSHS, three honorees from KHS, and 12 honorees from MHS.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Kagman High School students who completed the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute hospitality training course pose for a group photo Monday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Honorees from SSHS were Reynafe Aniga, Cornessa Dela Cruz, and Gregory Sablan.

Honorees from KHS were Gedin Cabrera, Aaron Oguamoro, and Vincent Torres, while honorees from MHS were Jewel Antatico, Gracelyn Babauta, Jezreelyn Bulaklak, Jerric Conde, Jodeen Frederick, Jan Morera, Samarsh Nawaz, Kianny Ogo, Michelle Polig, Rhose Ann Joy Prado, Maria Ramona Pua, and Keiki Saures.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Marianas High School students who completed the AHLEI hospitality training course pose for a group photo Monday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Saipan Southern High School students who completed the AHLEI hospitality training course pose for a group photo Monday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 25, 2000

House pushes bill to regulate telecoms

The chair of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications yesterday vowed to push legislation seeking to regulate the local telecommunications industry that he said is necessitated partly by the controversy on inter-island calls between the government and MTC. Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho disclosed a committee report on the bill he introduced, otherwise known as the Commonwealth Telecommunications Act, will endorse the proposal to the House in order to establish a regulatory commission overseeing the growing sector. He expressed hope that the Senate will approve the measure, noting that it is important to put in place regulations that will help the CNMI deal with the anticipated entry of other telecom companies into the island.

Health clinics performing abortions

Authorities are now keeping a tight watch on clinics suspected of offering abortion after the recent surprise inspection conducted by public health officials.

Sources said the discovery of various medical devices which were being used illegally bolstered suspicions that many women are seeking abortion in some of these health clinics. Five health clinics were raided by a combined team from the Departments of Public Safety and Public Health and the Attorney General's Office early this month in efforts to enforce P.L 11-40, or the Pure Food, Drug and Cosmetic Device Act of 1998. Some of these clinics were found to have been dispensing controlled substances and possessing medical devices illegally.

May 25, 2005

Sablan: Privatization may happen sooner

The power privatization on Saipan may take place sooner than expected, following the recent declaration of a disaster emergency on utilities. Quoting government sources, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan, who attended yesterday's government briefing on the current emergency situation, said an independent power producer contract may be awarded in a couple of months. "We hear it's very soon. I don't know if it's during the emergency period. There's limited power in the emergency declaration, we acknowledge that. What we are talking about is an IPP contract being actually awarded. They [government] say it's very soon.

House gives governor full access to funds

The House of Representatives has granted Gov. Juan N. Babauta 100 percent authority to reprogram any available local funds to remedy the power crisis besetting the CNMI. The measure, House Joint Resolution 14-36, which was introduced by Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, received bipartisan support and passed the lower chamber during a session yesterday afternoon. House members agreed with the governor's May 19 declaration of disaster emergency in the CNMI due to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s "inability to provide service." It conceded that CUC will be unable to pay for its fuel oil supplies in the immediate future, its power reserve is currently almost zero and, without electricity, the CUC's water and wastewater pumping systems will also fail.

May 25, 2006

Bill wants higher qualifications for NMC execs

The qualifications of Northern Marianas College officials and NMC's spending history were placed under a microscope in a newly proposed legislation. Authored by Vice Speaker Justo S. Quitugua, House Bill 15-134 seeks higher educational qualifications for members of the NMC Board of Regents, greater financial oversight of the college, and legislative appropriation of NMC revenues.

According to the bill, the academic background required of the NMC president and the regents are "antiquated" and have led to "a managerial dilution and a lack of credibility" on the part of the CNMI's only public college. To address this, the measure proposes that four members of board of regents have at least a master's degree level of education, with the three other regents possessing at least a bachelor's degree.

PSS wait-and-see on budget cut

The Public School System is taking a wait-and-see attitude toward the possible $2.6 million cut on its budget for the next fiscal year. David M. Borja, PSS associate commissioner for administrative services, said the school system was now looking at programs that could be cut or areas of operations that could be streamlined, in anticipation of the budget reduction. But he added that no final decision would be made until PSS' allocation had been determined. The Office of Budget and Management has proposed a $34.57 million budget for the public schools—a $2.64 million cut from PSS' current budget level, which amounts to $37.21 million. About $35 million of the schools' budget is spent on personnel costs alone.

MVA's 1st BBQ Pork Ribs Cookoff won with mangoes

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first ever Marianas Visitors Authority BBQ Pork Ribs Cookoff last Saturday at the Taste of the Marianas at the Garapan Fishing Base was topped by Spencer Marchadesch and Angelo Camacho.

Bringing home $250 in cash, $50 worth of tokens for the festival, and a $100 gift certificate from Twins Supermarket, Marchadesch, who did not expect to win, believed that their unique mango sauce complimenting the ribs was what won the judges over.

"We knew that with the [mango sauce's] concept and flavor, we had a chance," he said.

Marchadesch explained that he and Camacho wished to create a special barbecue dish that utilized local ingredients.Having realized that it was already mango season, Marchadesch and Camacho discovered their winning component.

"Just last week, the mangoes started to ripen—we wanted to incorporate that [into our dish]," said Marchadesch.

Coupled with Saipan Brewing Co.'s mango beer, the ribs won over enough judges to win the competition.

The judges of the cookoff included MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, Docomo Pacific CNMI vice president and general manager Dino Manning, TanHoldings vice president for Corporate Affairs Catherine Toves, among others.

"[The cookoff] yielded a very positive reaction from the community," said Concepcion, adding that there were eight participants in the competition.

Concepcion said MVA has been planning to make cookoffs an annual thing, starting with last week's barbecue ribs cookoff and the previous week's kadun pika cook-off.

"If not barbecue ribs, [we plan to annualize a cookoff] of something local; something we eat regularly in the Marianas," he said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he was impressed with the 2017 Taste of the Marianas despite the change of venue.

"Two weeks ago, I came here and was overwhelmed by the people," said Torres regarding the turnout of the festival.

Torres added that although the congestion of the festival may be remedied, the venue for the festival, according to his assessment of the people that showed up last week, was "a great place for this event."

"I want to thank all the vendors and MVA for sponsoring the Taste of the Marianas. It has been 19 years and it seems that we are getting better and better every year," he said.

This Saturday, which is also the final Saturday of the festival for the year, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands would be holding a cookoff among island chefs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Angelo Villagomez, left, and Spencer Marchadesch pose for a photo while getting their grill ready for last Saturday's BBQ Pork Ribs Cookoff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The final presentation of the winning dish featuring a unique mango sauce.

ICE expands digital presence with Spanish website, Twitter

WASHINGTON—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has launched ICE.gov/es, an expanded Spanish language presence on the agency's website. The translated site offers information about ICE and the agency's mission, as well as press releases and special features.

"The new ICE.gov/es is our most recent step in increasing access to important and accurate information about ICE," said ICE public affairs assistant Liz Johnson

"Offering information in other languages helps ICE reach a broader audience, while also ensuring that the public can obtain information directly from ICE, and not from unofficial—and possibly unscrupulous—sources."

One of the highlights of ICE.gov/es is informing Spanish-speaking audiences about the important work ICE does, such as combating child exploitation, human trafficking and fighting transnational gangs.

Coinciding with the expansion of ICE's website, ICE is also announcing the launch of @ICEespanol. These new outreach platforms will allow ICE to reach new audiences to explain the importance of the agency's mission.

For more information on ICE, visit www.ice.gov / www.ice.gov/es or follow us on Twitter (@ICEgov, @ICEespanol) YouTube (/ICE) and Instagram (@ICEgov). ***(PR)***

Ready. Set. Grow your business!

Apply for the United MileagePlus® Business Credit Card[1] to help you expand your business and earn miles.

Apply by June 30, 2017 and, if you are approved, you can receive[2]:

UP TO 25,000 BONUS AWARD MILES
- 10,000 miles at account opening
- 15,000 miles with $3,000 spend within the first 3 months of account opening

$0 Intro annual fee for the first year ($45 thereafter)
2x miles per $1 spent on United ticket purchases
1x miles per $1 spent on all other purchases

Apply Today. Stop by any branch and see a Customer Service Representative for more information.

First Hawaiian Bank. IT ALL STARTS WITH YES
MileagePlus UNITED
fhb.com Member FDIC

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 • **Oleai Branch,** Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559

1 Miles accrued, awards, and benefits issued are subject to change and are subject to the rules of the United MileagePlus program, including without limitation the Premier® program (the "MileagePlus Program"), which are expressly incorporated herein. Please allow 6-8 weeks after completed qualifying activity for miles to post to your account. United may change the MileagePlus Program including, but not limited to, rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers or terminate the MileagePlus Program at any time and without notice. United and its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products or services of other participating companies and partners. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the member. Bonus award miles, award miles and any other miles earned through non-flight activity do not count toward qualification for Premier status unless expressly stated otherwise. The accumulation of mileage or Premier status or any other status does not entitle members to any vested rights with respect to the MileagePlus Program. MileagePlus Program participation may not be permitted in some countries. All calculations made in connection with the MileagePlus Program, including without limitation with respect to the accumulation of mileage and the satisfaction of the qualification requirements for Premier status, will be made by United Airlines and MileagePlus in their discretion and such calculations will be considered final. Information in this communication that relates to the MileagePlus Program does not purport to be complete or comprehensive and may not include all of the information that a member may believe is important, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to all of the information on the united.com website and the MileagePlus Program rules. United and MileagePlus are registered service marks. For complete details about the MileagePlus Program, go to www.united.com.

2 Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United MileagePlus Business Credit Card by 06/30/17 and, if approved, receive 10,000 bonus miles at account opening and 15,000 bonus miles if you spend $3,000 in purchases within the first 3 months after your account is opened. Also, you'll earn 2 miles per $1 spent on United ticket purchases and 1 mile per $1 spent on all other qualifying purchases. $0 introductory annual fee for the first year after account opening; thereafter, the annual fee is $45. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply. See the United MileagePlus Credit Card Agreement for more information.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 103

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A heinous act of evil in Manchester

President Donald Trump uttered a single word on Tuesday that perfectly framed the slaughter that targeted Ariana Grande concertgoers in Manchester, England: Evil.

That's the word that the president brandished to describe the suicide bomber who packed his explosive, and timed his attack, to inflict mortal damage on the young concertgoers, many of them in their early teens.

"So many young, beautiful, innocent people living and enjoying their lives, murdered by evil losers," Trump said.

It is the perfect characterization of this attack. Elemental. A thunderbolt with sharp edges and no doubt about its accuracy. Look at the photos of those young girls, bloodied, shrieking, screaming for their parents. The word fits.

The evil that lurked in the Manchester bomber is the same that motivated a cell of terrorists who murdered scores of people in Paris, or the one who rampaged through an Orlando nightclub, or those who set off explosions in Boston and Brussels, or rammed a truck into crowds of celebrants on Bastille Day in Nice, France …

The list goes on. And the next plots are already taking shape.

For many parents the understandable impulse may be to downplay the danger, lest their child grow anxious. Could it happen here?

The truth is not comforting.

How to explain evil, not the garden-variety kind but the capital E kind practiced by Islamic State, the kind that doesn't view innocent civilians as collateral damage but as soft targets to be exploited to pile up a maximum death toll?

Scientists have long tried to trace the genesis of human evil, to fathom the unfathomable. What role, for instance, does childhood trauma play? Bad parenting? Religious indoctrination or, conversely, a religious void? Genetics? What researchers know is that many people share similar experiences and genetic traits but don't become terrorists, don't commit heinous acts of evil.

Years ago in a symposium titled "Understanding Evil," a group of psychiatrists, authors and professional evil-studiers gathered in Texas. They invoked the touchstones of evil, and named names from Hitler to Manson, Stalin to Pol Pot. They talked about slavery. Child abuse. Bullies. The Inquisition.

One intriguing thought came from then-Texas Monthly editor Gregory Curtis, who explained evil's seductive appeal. "Evil accepts us," he said. "It does not require us to improve no matter how great our faults. You are what you are, evil says, and in fact if you want to, you can go ahead and be worse."

Some people may shrink from this word because they've been taught that no one is pure evil, just as no one is pure good. That people do things for complicated reasons.

But evil is the right word to describe the Manchester bombing. It should be wielded like a dagger every time a terrorist strikes.

You don't need to know the bomber's name or his twist-

See MANCHESTER on Next Page

Manchester rises amid shattered innocence

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. *She can be reached through her website at http://www.ginabarreca.com.*

Girls scream at concerts. Girls screamed for Frank Sinatra, for Elvis Presley, for The Beatles, for The Supremes, for Madonna, for Michael Jackson, for Prince, for Taylor Swift. Monday night, girls and their moms in Manchester, England, were screaming for Ariana Grande, a pop singer I'd never heard of until I saw the news alerts flashing on my computer.

Girls are not supposed to scream at concerts because a bomb has gone off at the back of the hall. Music fans, girls and boys, women and men, are not supposed to be screaming because the most light-hearted outing has been shattered by the kind of violence expected on the front lines of a battlefield.

These kinds of screams are different. These weren't kids screaming in the dark; these were kids screaming after the lights went on, because that's when the suicide bomber decided it was the right time to destroy the lives of thousands of people.

It was supposed to be fun. Don't tell me that the fact that the concert was called the "Dangerous Woman" tour had nothing to do with it. Don't tell me that Ariana Grande's wildly popular pop song, which happened to be written by three men and included the lines "Don't need permission/ made my decision to test my limits" and "I live for danger" had nothing to do with the terrorist decision to attack this particular concert. Don't tell me that aiming for women and children first, women and children who were celebrating a frivolous, flirty and boisterous take on independence — and yes, a kind of emerging sexuality — was coincidental. The threat of girls just wanting to have fun was simply too perilous to be borne by a group (the Islamic State has claimed unverified credit) that relies on a systemic oppression of women.

There were pink balloons everywhere. The balloons weren't red, white and blue; they didn't represent or conjure up any kind of national or political iconography. Of what use is a balloon against shrapnel?

What did your parents warn you about when you went to your first concert? My father worried that some predatory boy would lead me astray. My mother worried that my friends and I, who were sneaking food into the event because we didn't have enough money to buy from the concession stands, wouldn't have enough to eat. My friends and I worried that no predatory boys would attempt to lead us astray. Because I grew up before cellphones, we all shared the legitimate worry that if we were separated, we'd have no way of finding one another again and would have to start life in a new home.

How astonishingly innocent these worries seem. In part, the deep grief I feel about the Manchester tragedy is because I imagine that most of the kids who were getting ready to go see Ariana Grande that night were worried about such innocent, everyday matters: they were worried about how they looked, and what they were wearing, and who they'd be sitting next to. They were preparing for a rom-com evening, when instead they'd be facing a war story.

Many of the victims of the bombing in Manchester were brought to the children's units of local hospitals, blood all over the clothes they had chosen to make them look pretty and to let them dance around while one of their favorite stars was singing. They weren't dressed for battle. They weren't wearing Kevlar vests; they didn't have helmets, or boots. In bright T-shirts, artfully tattered jeans and glittery plastic flip-flops, they ended up running for, not toward, their lives. I don't know whether parents, terrified of what happened in Manchester, will keep their children at home this summer, suggesting that live concerts are no longer a good idea. Assassins can be anywhere: at a live performance, at a sporting event, at a museum, at a mall. But sane, compassionate and peace-loving people are in even more places.

The minute the bomber struck and the residents of the great city of Manchester heard about it, they opened their doors to strangers and offered help to anyone who needed it. United, their voices rise in a chorus that drowns out the chaos. Perhaps hope is a weapon. Perhaps hope is a pink balloon.

Congress needs to raise budget caps

By JOHN YARMUTH
CQ-Roll Call

Rep. John Yarmuth, D-Ky., is the ranking member on the House Budget Committee.

We begin the 2018 budget process facing arbitrary and irresponsible spending caps that threaten our security, our economy, and our nation's standing as a global leader of research and innovation. Yet, the budget proposal put forth by President Donald Trump does not respond to this simple truth. In fact, it will take our country in the opposite direction.

The president would provide additional funds for one important aspect of government — defense — but would do so at the expense of all other investments. That's not a responsible proposal — and it should not be treated as one. Even some of my Republican colleagues have criticized these misguided priorities of President Trump. House Budget Committee member Tom Cole, R-Okla., called the president's proposed cuts "short-sighted," saying, "These are investments the country ought to be making."

I've also been hearing from countless people outside the halls of Congress who are alarmed by the essential programs targeted for cuts under the president's preliminary budget. I agree with them that cutting funding for health research, environmental protection, housing programs and diplomacy initiatives — just to name a few examples — is damaging and wrong.

Just how dire is the situation for nondefense programs? Even before the president's additional cuts, the nondefense discretionary spending limit for 2018 is $2 billion less than it was in 2016, in nominal terms. But that 2018 level represents a more significant cut to purchasing power. If the inflation rate turns out to be what the Congressional Budget Office projects, the 2018 cap represents a reduction of nearly $30 billion compared with 2016. As a percentage of the economy, funding for these programs would match the lowest levels since the Eisenhower administration.

We need to get to work on a new agreement to make investments that will pay off now and in the future; investments that will create economic growth — including infrastructure, education, and scientific research — and protect our national security. Each time that austerity level caps have been place, we have reached bipartisan agreements to mitigate them based on the principle of parity — increasing defense and nondefense programs by the same amount.

As Republicans in Congress determine how they will deal with the budget caps this year, I hope they will remember that national security and economic security are intertwined. We have the responsibility — and the opportunity — to invest in both nondefense and defense spending, boost economic development, and guarantee that every American family has the chance to build a better future. As former CBO Director Doug Elmendorf recently pointed out in our Facebook Live conversation, it's particularly wise to fund these needs now, when interest rates are low, and we can maximize the return on these investments.

We should not let politics stand in the way, particularly when we have already demonstrated an ability to work together this congressional session. Earlier this month, the House and Senate finished the spending bills for fiscal 2017. The legislation was the product of bipartisan negotiations, responsible compromises on both sides of the aisle, and was approved with strong bipartisan support.

We need to summon that governing attitude again. Just as we've raised the caps on a bipartisan basis before, if we value the strength of our nation, we must raise them again. If we care about the long-term success of our country and our people, we cannot shortchange the next generation by leaving behind an ill-prepared workforce, a crumbling infrastructure, and a stagnant economy. The United States has always been the global leader of new research and discovery, a driver of innovation and new industry. It is unacceptable to abandon that now.

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

Security tips for wireless connections, bluetooth, and passwords

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" outlines the Federal Communications Commission's security tips for wireless connections, Bluetooth, and passwords.

As access to wireless internet soars, Wi-Fi networks and Bluetooth connections have become vulnerable points of access for illegal activities. However, there are many ways to decrease your chances of becoming a victim of data or identity theft.

1) Encryption tips

No matter what kind of internet access you use, encryption is the best way to keep your personal data safe. Encryption scrambles the data in your message so that only the intended recipients can read it. When a website address starts with "https" instead of "http," that indicates that encryption is taking place. Wi-Fi systems (i.e., "hotspots") will generally inform you of the encryption they use.

Types of encryption:

1) Wired Equivalent Privacy ("WEP")

2) Wi-Fi Protected Access ("WPA") = the strongest one available, so use that whenever it's available.

2) Bluetooth security tips

Bluetooth connections to your mobile devices can be very useful, from connecting a wireless headset to transferring files to enabling hands-free calling while you drive. But just like Wi-Fi connections, Bluetooth can put your personal data at risk if you are not careful.

Here are some steps you may wish to take when using Bluetooth:

Turn Bluetooth off when not in use. If you connect your mobile phone to a rental car, be sure to unpair your phone from the car and clear any personal data, such as call logs and saved numbers, from the car before you return it. When using Bluetooth, use it in "hidden" mode rather than "discoverable" mode.

3) Password tips

You likely have passwords for many accounts that you access online, and remembering them all can be a pain. Web browsers and other programs may offer to remember passwords for you, which can be a significant timesaver. However, certain password shortcuts can leave you less safe and secure.

The following good habits may help keep your personal information safer:

Do not use the same password for multiple accounts, especially for the most sensitive ones (e.g., bank accounts, legal, or tax records). Do not have your web browser remember passwords and input them for you. Do not use passwords that can be easily guessed (e.g., common words, birthdays, etc.). Instead, use a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols. The longer and stronger the password, the safer your information.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program shares Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") and/or FCC publications that provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a Consumer Complaint, please pick up a Form at the OAG (in Capitol Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the Consumer Complaint, please submit it by email or in-person. We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

Michael J. Cyganek is the consumer counsel o f the Office of the Attorney General.

MANCHESTER

From Page 10

ed spiel or whether he did this for the greater glory of Islamic State. Trump said he wouldn't empower terrorists by labeling them "monsters because they would like that term, they would think that is a great name. I will call them, from now on, losers, because that's what they are: They're losers."

We don't care to calculate how this evil stacks up against other terror acts, other atrocities, greater tolls of wars and genocides. Every act of evil, no matter the death toll, is equivalent at its merciless core.

Today, parents in Manchester mourn their dead. Tomorrow, we hope, the terrorists will mourn theirs.

This we know: Evil cannot be wiped off the Earth. But Islamic State can be.

©2017 *Chicago Tribune*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A tourists-citizen act

Your attitude will always determine your altitude. This is wisdom our leaders need to adhere to when considering what to do about offering more protection for our tourists and citizens in the fight against crime and "ice" usage. If we have learned one thing about crime and criminals it's the fact that they can never be stopped completely and that determent is our best option for preventing criminals from committing crimes. The recent editorial by Zaldy Dandan about tourists being "easy targets" was so true and one can only wonder when our Legislature and DPS are going to do something that offers more determent to the prevention of crimes against tourists and even local citizens which is to a large degree being driven by the use of "ice."

This is not the first time I have written about the need for a tourists act and it has also become apparent that we also need a citizen act to serve the same purpose of providing more protection and stronger prosecution of crimes against tourists and crimes against citizens that were driven by the use of "ice." With the new casino coming online there will be more tourists who will be even bigger targets, which is why the CNMI must change its attitude toward preventing crime as much as possible—crime prevention is our best weapon. We the people must do more than create a Drug Court we must also create new Legislation that will help to drive this new court's functions because a lot of the crimes are being driven by the use of "ice" but they are not being caught for "ice." We must address the use of "ice" and its effect on crime to offer the strongest determents too crime and the use of "ice" – it's called "tough-love" in the ghettos of America.

I fully realize that with every action there is a reaction and I'm sure my critics will recognize and even admit that the trade-off for preventing crimes against tourists and local citizens will surely cause criminals to shift their focus towards businesses. For sure this will be one of the negative outcomes from a tourists-citizen act but I believe that businesses are in a far better position and should be better prepared to prevent crimes against them than our tourists and citizens. We the people need for businesses to step up to the challenge which will also make their establishments more safer and better protected which means it may be time for the CNNI to institute "armed guards" before more people die given a guard has already been killed in the past.

Times are changing and we had better change our attitude with the times because we are going to see a rise in crime once the casino opens so our leaders have some hard decisions to make if they truly want to do more to protect our easy target tourists and citizens in the villages. But whatever our leaders do I pray that DPS will at least start planning for a "remote control center with cameras in Garapan and at all the major tourists sites." I've yelled and pleaded for a camera system before but it fell on deaf ears. But I shouldn't have to explain or offer any more rational as to how important it is for these locations to have cameras—it's a common practice worldwide that makes common sense in this day and time.

DPS is already creating a taskforce due to the rise in crime that is clearly being generated by the increase in the number of "easy targets" (tourists). But if our leaders take the attitude of continuing to do nothing more about protecting the very people who bring the money that drives our economy our altitude for convincing tourists they are safe here will remain low and even a deal-breaker for potential tourists who learn about the robberies and crimes against tourists. It would be far better for tourists and citizens to see signs in their language that they are being protected by a special law for them that will surely deter criminals. I am very confident that when a person learns that "if they commit a crime against a tourist or citizen and they are a known "ice" user that they will automatically be facing a consecutive sentence of 1 to 5 years in addition to their charged crime" they will think twice and even three or four times before using "ice" and committing a crime against a tourist or citizen just to afford their habit. They are not committing these crimes to get milk money for their children who are also suffering from their behavior and need some relief help and support. We the People need to put our foot down and try to do all we can to stem the tide of crime that is surely going to rise with the opening of the casino.

Our attitude will determine our altitude when it comes to stopping crime and the use of "ice" which goes hand and hand in committing crimes against tourists and citizens. Our legislature needs to create new laws and also commit some of the new tax money from the casino they are pondering towards DPS becoming more modern with a remote camera system in critical public locations throughout Garapan and at all major tourist sites.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds near 10 mph.
▲89° ▼79°

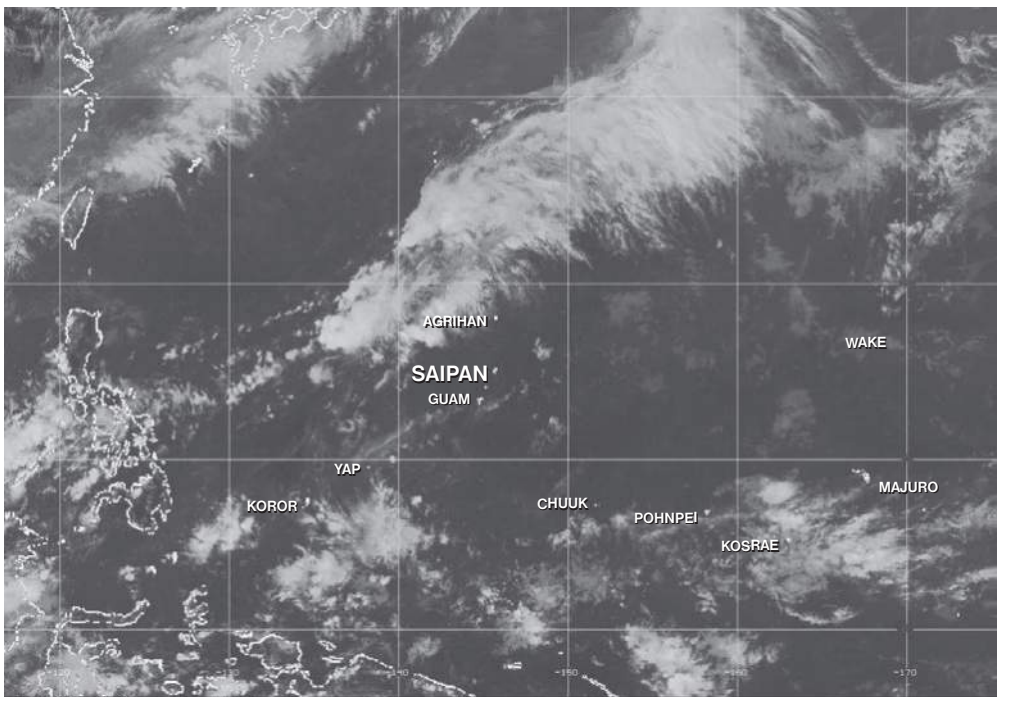
FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.
▲87° ▼79°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.
▲86° ▼79°

SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°

MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:06 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Another dry day is in store with only a slight chance of showers. Moisture should increase slightly by Thursday, but only isolated showers are indicated through the weekend. Seas will remain rather low, with only a slight buildup late in the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	90 | 81 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 | 78 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	88 | 73 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 | 81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 | 81 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 | 80 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85 | 81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Sunny	61 | 55 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	82 | 63 °F
Hong Kong	Cloudy	82 | 75 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	84 | 71 °F
London	Partly cloudy	77 | 55 °F
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	69 | 60 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	87 | 79 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	65 | 49 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	87 | 74 °F
New York	Rain	62 | 57 °F
Osaka	Cloudy	79 | 58 °F
Paris	Sunny	82 | 58 °F
Pusan	Mostly sunny	84 | 52 °F
Rome	Sunny	83 | 57 °F
Salem	Partly cloudy	74 | 49 °F
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	66 | 55 °F
Seoul	Rain	76 | 68 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	80 | 65 °F
Washington, DC	Rain	75 | 58 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:49 AM	LOW TIDE	0.78
6:24 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.11
1:26 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.39
8:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.04

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	5:45 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:05 AM	6:05 PM	-
Friday	6:01 AM	7:09 PM	-
Saturday	7:00 AM	8:14 PM	-
Sunday	8:01 AM	9:16 PM	-
Monday	9:03 AM	10:14 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

SCS, Nike Golf donate $10K in-kind to TOC

Saipan Computer Services, together with NikeGolf, has announced that they are donating over $10,000 in in-kind contributions to the upcoming Governor's Tournament of Champions.

"It is always a pleasure and an honor to be part of the Governor's Tournament of Champions which supports projects enhancing tourist areas in the CNMI," said Jerry Tiu, Business Development director of Saipan Computer Services. "We look forward to another successful tournament and wish all players good luck."

"Year after year Saipan Computer Services and NikeGolf continue to support the Tournament of Champions with their generous contributions," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We are beyond thankful for their commitment to the tournament and their valued partnership through so many years."

The 22nd Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east and west courses on May 27 and 28. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. Tournament fee is $200.

Winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 cash, $300 cash, a digital camera, and $100 DFS gift certificate for the first to fifth places, respectively. The Ladies Low Gross winners will receive $500, $400, and $300 cash for first to third places, respectively. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will each receive a trophy.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of prizes will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes like a brand new 2017 Honda Civic hatchback donated by Joeten Motors, a brand new 2017 Hyundai Grand Santa Fe donated by Triple J Motors, a brand new 2017 Limited Edition 50th Anniversary Toyota Corolla donated by Atkins Kroll Toyota, a $10,000 hole-in-one prize offered by Pacifica Insurance, a $5,000 hole-in-one cash prize offered by McDonald's of Saipan, and one year of free golf donated by Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

Since its inception, TOC has turned over more than $800,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, the Governor's TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2017 TOC, contact Ben Babauta at 483-2563. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocsaipan.com/. ***(PR)***

Service Beyond the Sale...
Saipan Computer Services
DATE May 12, 2017
PAY TO THE ORDER OF 2017 TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
TEN THOUSAND Dollars and

Saipan Computer Services, Business Development director Jerry Tiu, managing director Kazuko Kawabe-Tiu, and director Jose C. Tiu (2nd, 4th, and 6th from left) present a $10,000 donation to the organizers of the 2017 Governor's Tournament of Champions. Also, in photo are Team SCS and Team NikeGolf. The upcoming Governor's Tournament of Champion will be held on May 27 and 28, 2017 at the Laolao Golf & Resort.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KZMI DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

As part of its commitment to supporting community projects, KZMI FM announced that it has donated $2,500 in in-kind contributions to the organizers of the 22nd Governor's Tournament of Champions. From left, Jaime Hemley, KZMI representative; Bob Webb, KZMI general manager; and Marida Pendader, TOC committee member.

If Your Toilet Looks Like This:

You may be eligible for cash payments from two settlements

A new settlement has been reached about the Series 503 Flushmate III Pressure Assist Flushing System ("Flushmate System"). A separate $18 million settlement has already been approved and all valid claims have been paid.

This Notice tells you about: (1) the extension of time to submit a claim in the previous settlement, (2) your ability to comment on proposed modifications to the previous settlement to extend the claim period and pay for claims submitted in the new settlement, and (3) your rights and options.

Who's included?

Anyone who owns or owned a toilet with a Flushmate System manufactured from October 14, 1997 through April 30, 2011 is eligible to file a claim. Flushmate Systems were installed in American Standard, Copperfit, Crane, Ecotech, Eljer, Gerber, Kohler, Lamosa, Mancesa, Masfield, Orion, St. Thomas, Universal Rundle, Vitra, Vitromex, Vortens and Western Pottery toilets, which were sold at Home Depot and Lowe's stores and through distributors and plumbing contractors.

What do the settlements provide?

Subject to Court approval, and to the extent not previously reimbursed, class members can receive money for having installed: (1) a Flushmate III repair kit, (2) a replacement pressure vessel, or (3) a replacement toilet. To the extent not previously reimbursed, class members can also receive reimbursement for any direct property damage caused by a Flushmate System that leaked or burst.

Approximately $7 million is left over from the previous settlement. The remaining money will be used to pay all valid claims. If necessary, the Defendant will contribute additional money to pay 100% of all valid claims submitted before the claims deadline for people covered by the new settlement. If there is any money left over from the previous settlement after paying all valid claims from both settlements, the claims periods may be extended again, or the money may be donated to a charity.

How can I get a payment?

File a claim online at www.FlushmateClaims.com or call 1-877-412-5277.

What are my rights?

Even if you do nothing, you will be bound by the Court's decisions. Certain deadlines have already passed for the previous settlement, but you can comment on the modifications to the previous settlement by **August 21, 2017**. If you want to keep your right to sue the Defendant in the new settlement, you must exclude yourself from the class by **August 21, 2017**. If you stay in the class, you may object to the new settlement by **August 21, 2017**.

The Court will hold a hearing on **September 18, 2017** to consider the proposed modifications to the previous settlement and whether to approve the new settlement and a request for attorneys' fees and costs up to $600,000. The attorneys' separately by the Defendant and will not reduce settlement payments. You or your own lawyer may appear at the hearing at your own expense.

For more information or a claim form: 1-877-412-5277 or www.FlushmateClaims.com

TRUCKLOAD STORE direct from KMART

Customers First TRIPLE J

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS! • STORE HOURS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 11AM TO 7PM • SATURDAY 9AM TO 7PM

$189.95 KENMORE 3.3 COMPACT REFRIGERATOR

COLEMAN 36 QT COOLER BLUE $25.95

$47.95 KENMORE 18" WALL FAN

$39.95 CRAFTSMAN 2.5 GAL WET/DRY VACUUM

$39.95 AL DECO 2 TON TROLLY JACK

$18.95 NORTHWEST TERRITORY OVERSIZED CHAIR

$69.95 Z SHADE INSTANT 10X10 CANOPY

$31.95 BRENTWOOD 2.5 LTR RICE COOKER W/ STEAMER

$11.95 4 SEASONS STERILITE CAKE SAVER WHITE 8"

$7.95 4 SEASONS 10" WALL CLOCK

$74.95 EMATIC 19"-80" TV WALL MOUNT

$229.95 PRIMO BOTTOM LOAD WATER DISPENSER

$39.95 BUNGEE CHAIR

$10.95 4 SEASONS PET BED 21.25"

DEAL OF THE WEEK!

ALPHA GLASS TOP SINGLE BURNER LP GAS STOVE

$34.95 SAVE $5

$19.95 BOOMBOTIX SS STATION BLUETOOTH SPEAKER

$1.95 4 SEASONS PET BOWL

$28.95 CRAFTSMAN 35LED WORKLIGHT

$8.95 UNITED SOLUTIONS 10GAL DUAL SWING WASTE BASKET

$39.95 COSCO BIG STEP FOLDING STEP STOOL

$7.95 BOND 24" FAN RAKE

$19.95 4 SEASONS STERILITE 30 GAL TOTE BOX

$9.95 HIGH TENSION HACK SAW

$29.95 BRENTWOOD 4 SLICE TOASTER OVEN W/ BROILER

$39.95 WILSON 12.5" BASEBALL GLOVE

$45.95 EMIRATES 5'X7' AREA RUG

$2.95 ALL PURPOSE POTTING SOIL 8QT

$4.95 DAHDOUL 27X54 BATH TOWEL

$14.95 DAHDOUL 2100 SERIES TWIN SIZE SHEET SET

$8.95 4 SEASONS STERILITE 1.5 BUSHEL LAUNDRY BASKET

$49.95 ALPHA GLASS TOP DOUBLE BURNER GAS STOVE

$109.95 PRICE ZONE ALPHA HIGH PRESSURE TWIN BURNER

$129.95 MATTRESS TWIN SIZE

$109.95 BASE TWIN SIZE

FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Come and visit us at the Triple J Wholesale Store

We reserve the right to limit quantity purchases on all items.

For more info, please call: 322-0430

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Business

TRUMP BUDGET KEEPS PLEDGES:

Cuts for poor, more for military

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump fulfilled a major campaign promise Tuesday, proposing a $4.1 trillion budget plan that would upend Washington in a big way. But he drew rebukes, even from some Republican allies, for the plan's jarring, politically unrealistic cuts to the social safety net for the poor and a broad swath of other domestic programs.

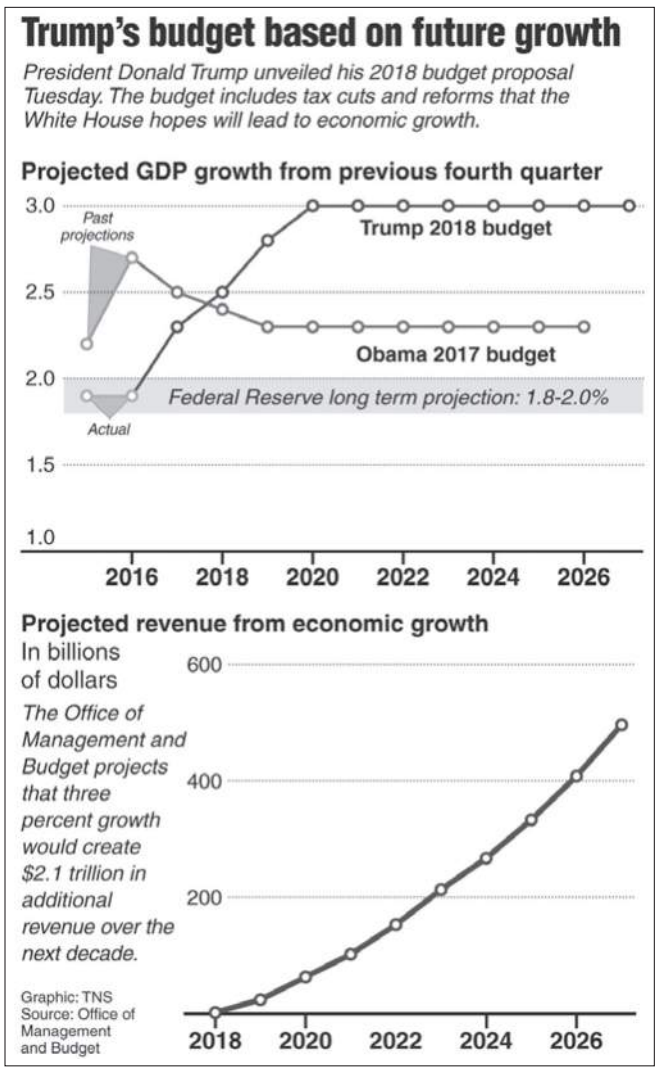
The budget, Trump's first as president, combines his spending plan for the upcoming 2018 fiscal year with a promise to balance government books after a decade, relying on aggressive cuts, a surge in economic growth—and a $2 trillion-plus accounting gimmick.

"Through streamlined government, we will drive an economic boom that raises incomes and expands job opportunities for all Americans," Trump declared in his budget message.

"Basically dead on arrival," opined the Senate's No. 2 Republican, John Cornyn of Texas.

The proposal reflects a conservative vision of smaller government, a drastic rollback of programs for the poor and disabled to prod them into the workforce and a robust hike for the military and border security. It foresees scuttling Barack Obama's health care law and an overhaul of the tax code, a boon to the wealthiest Americans.

The plan is laced with $3.6 trillion in cuts to domestic agencies, food stamps, Medicaid, highway funding, crop insurance and medical research, among others. Many of the voters who propelled Trump into the presidency last November would see significantly less from the federal government.



"We're no longer going to measure compassion by the number of programs or the number of people on those programs, but by the number of people we help get off those programs," said Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget and a former tea party congressman.

US says Fiat Chrysler used software to cheat emissions tests

DETROIT (AP)—The U.S. government is suing Fiat Chrysler, alleging that some of its diesel pickup trucks and Jeep SUVs cheat on emissions tests.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday by the Justice Department marks the second time the government has gone after an automaker alleging use of software on diesel engines that allows them to emit more pollution on the road than during Environmental Protection Agency lab testing.

Last year, the government accused Volkswagen of cheating on tests, and the company ended up pleading guilty to criminal charges in a scandal that cost VW more than $20 billion in the U.S. alone.

In the latest case, the government alleges that Fiat Chrysler, or FCA, put eight "software-based features" on diesel engines in nearly 104,000 Ram pickups and Jeep Grand Cherokees from the 2014 to 2016 model years. The software allowed the vehicles to emit fewer pollutants during lab tests by Environmental Protection Agency than during normal driving conditions.

The 3-liter FCA diesels emit nitrogen oxide at a much higher rate than allowed under federal laws when on the road, the EPA said in a statement. The company failed to disclose the software during the process to become certified so the vehicles can be sold, according to the EPA. The agency called the software a "defeat device" that changes the way the vehicles perform on treadmill tests in a laboratory.

"Each of these vehicles differs materially from the specifications provided to EPA in the certification applications," the statement said. "Thus the cars are uncertified, in violation of the Clean Air Act."

The Italian-American automaker said in a statement Tuesday that it is disappointed that the lawsuit was filed because it has been working with the EPA for months to clarify pollution control issues. FCA has contended that unlike VW, it did not install the software with intent to cheat on tests.

"The company intends to defend itself vigorously, particularly against any claims that the company engaged in any deliberate scheme to install defeat devices to cheat U.S. emissions tests."

In the lawsuit filed in Detroit federal court, the government seeks civil fines that could total over $4 billion, as well as court orders stopping the company from making or selling vehicles with undisclosed software.

Nation

Hands off US election, ex-CIA director says he warned Russia

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former CIA Director John Brennan told Congress Tuesday he personally warned Russia last summer against interfering in the U.S. presidential election and was so concerned about Russian contacts with people involved in Donald Trump's campaign that he convened top counterintelligence officials to focus on them.

Meanwhile, a Senate committee issued two additional subpoenas to businesses of ousted Trump National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, one of several key figures in the Russia-Trump campaign probe, and sent a letter to his lawyer questioning his basis for claiming a Fifth Amendment right not to provide documents.

If there is no response from Flynn, the Senate Intelligence Committee may consider a contempt-of-Congress charge, said Chairman Richard Burr of North Carolina.

Tuesday's letter narrowed the scope of the documents the panel is seeking. Flynn had rejected the earlier subpoena for records as being so broad that providing them could make him vulnerable.

Former CIA chief Brennan's testimony to the House intelligence committee was the clearest public indication yet of the significance the Russia contacts play in counterintelligence investigations that continue to hang over the White House.

Brennan, who was President Barack Obama's CIA director, said he couldn't say whether there was collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign, an issue being investigated by congressional committees and now a federal special counsel.

"I don't have sufficient information to make a determination about whether or not such cooperation or complicity or collusion was taking place," Brennan said. "But I know there was a basis to have individuals pull those threads."

Brennan noted anew that U.S. intelligence agencies had concluded "Russia's goals were to undermine public faith in the U.S. democratic process, denigrate Secretary (Hillary) Clinton and harm her electability and potential presidency, and to help President Trump's election chances."

"It should be clear to everyone that Russia brazenly interfered in our 2016 present election process" and did so despite strong protests and his warning, he said.

Trump has predicted the investigations won't find collusion, and his efforts to cast doubt and curb the probes have led to the appointment of a special counsel at the Justice Department.

News reports that Trump asked his national intelligence director and National Security Agency chief to state publicly there was no evidence of collusion have heightened criticism.

Dan Coats, the current U.S. director of national intelligence, declined to comment Tuesday on a Washington Post report that said the president had asked him to publicly deny any collusion between Russia and Trump's campaign.

Coats told senators at a Senate hearing that it would be inappropriate to discuss private conversations he'd had with the president.

Trump envoy Haley tells refugees she cares, but defends cuts

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—President Donald Trump's U.N. ambassador visited a UNICEF center providing emotional support for Syrian refugee children and asked how the U.S. could better care for their needs. Then her boss proposed ending all U.S. funding to the organization.

Trump's 31 percent budget cut to the State Department and U.S. overseas assistance would dramatically reverse decades of support for programs that Democrats and Republicans held up as vehicles for promoting U.S. values and helping the world's neediest. And it's putting American diplomats in the uncomfortable position of defending the nation's continued status as a world leader even as the Trump administration signals its priority is at home.

"It's starting the conversation," Nikki Haley, Trump's U.N. envoy, said of the White House's Tuesday budget proposal. "It doesn't mean that's where it will end up. He's going to have that conversation with Congress on where we should fall on this."

Haley said during a trip to Turkey that Trump "had to show some signs" of commitment to reducing the U.S. budget deficit and eliminating waste in federal spending. She suggested the damage would be mitigated by Congress, which is already pushing back on the cuts.

A day earlier, Haley watched refugee children play music at a UNICEF program in Jordan that provides support and life skills training. Asking Iraqi and Syrian refugees about their hopes for the future, she told them that Americans "believe in you, and we think you're meant for great things."

When Brig. Gen. Jehad Matar, head of Jordan's Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate, said Jordan sought more U.S. support, Haley's answer was concise.

"That's why I'm here," she said.

At the camp, Haley was briefed on unmet needs by the U.N.'s humanitarian office and refugee agency - organizations whose U.S. accounts are eliminated in Trump's budget. American officials said they'll still receive some money through other accounts. Any such funding would likely be at far lower levels.

In all, Trump's budget cuts $780 million in U.S. payments to international organizations, and eliminates $1.6 billion in funding for climate change programs. There's also a $222 million cut to a global international fund for fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and a steep cut to U.N. peacekeeping missions in far-flung and violent locales like Congo, South Sudan and Haiti.

The White House sent its budget to Congress as Trump flew from Israel to Italy on his first overseas trip as president. A key theme of Trump's trip is reassuring foreign leaders the U.S. is "back" after what Trump is trying to paint as years of decline for America's global prestige.

"He's going around now from country to country on the world stage, but he doesn't want us to put our money where our mouth is," Rep. Eliot Engel, the House Foreign Affairs Committee's top Democrat, told The Associated Press. "It's just so totally destructive."

Asia

Duterte declares martial rule in besieged south PH

AP
Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, shakes hands with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte during their meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte warned Wednesday that he'll be harsh in enforcing martial law in his country's south as he abruptly left Moscow to deal with a crisis at home sparked by a Muslim extremist siege on a city, where militants burned buildings overnight and are feared to have taken hostages.

Duterte declared martial rule for 60 days in the entire southern Mindanao region, the restive third of the Philippine archipelago, Tuesday evening to try to crush Muslim extremists who have aligned themselves with the Islamic State group and occupied a hospital, jail and other buildings and battled troops in an audacious attack in Marawi City.

Martial law could be extended for a year depending on how long the problem could be quelled, Duterte said on board a plane en route to the Philippines.

"I said I would be harsh and I warned everybody not to force my hand into it," Duterte said. "I have to do it to preserve the republic."

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said troops raided the hideout of a top terrorist suspect in Marawi on Tuesday, sparking a gunbattle that prompted the militants to call for reinforcements from an allied group, the Maute. He said dozens of gunmen occupied city hall, a hospital and a jail and burned a Catholic church, a college and some houses in a bold attack that killed at least two soldiers and a police officer and wounded 12 others.

Several militants were killed in the fighting in Marawi city in Lanao del Sur province, about 830 kilometers (520 miles) south of Manila, but others continued to lay siege to the largely Muslim city of more than 200,000 people, officials said, adding that power was cut in the city in the chaos.

"The whole of Marawi city is blacked out, there is no light, and there are Maute snipers all around," Lorenzana said in the news conference in Moscow, which was broadcast live in the Philippines.

Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said he informed his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, of Duterte's decision to fly home early to deal with the crisis. Cayetano said he would stay behind in Moscow, where a number of agreements are to be signed between the governments.

Duterte met late Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin and said he is counting on Russia to supply weapons for the Philippines to fight terrorism.

"Of course, our country needs modern weapons, we had orders in the United States, but now the situation there is not very smooth and in order to fight the Islamic State, with their units and factions, we need modern weapons," he said, according to Russian state news agency Tass.

Duterte's martial law declaration will help government forces carry out searches and arrests and detain rebel suspects more quickly, Lorenzana said. He said offensives would also be staged in other southern provinces plagued by extremist groups. Despite the extremists' moves, Lorenzana said the government remains in control of the situation in Marawi city and other security trouble spots in the south.

Military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano said the fighting started when troops attacked a hideout for Muslim extremist leader Isnilon Hapilon.

Hapilon reportedly has been chosen to lead an Islamic State group branch in Southeast Asia and is on the U.S. Department of Justice list of most-wanted terrorists worldwide, with a reward of up to $5 million for his capture. An Arabic-speaking Islamic preacher known for his expertise in commando assaults, he pledged allegiance to the IS group in 2014, according to security officials.

Ano said Hapilon, who was wounded by a military airstrike in January, and more than a dozen of his men summoned reinforcements from their Maute allies. Nearly 50 gunmen in all managed to enter the city, Ano said.

About 20 of the gunmen took position in a hospital, where they raised a black Islamic State group-style flag at the gate, and 10 other militants were fighting troops and police near a provincial jail, he said.

Troops sealed off major entry and exit points to prevent Hapilon from escaping, Ano told The Associated Press by telephone from Moscow, where he was accompanying Duterte.

"They did some burnings, they showed up in another area so it looked chaotic, but it's actually a small group facing an overwhelming number of government forces," Ano said.

"We will conduct house-to-house clearing and do everything to remove the threat there. We can do that easily," Ano said, but added it was more difficult in an urban setting because of the need to avoid civilian casualties.

The Maute group is one of less than a dozen new armed Muslim groups that have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and formed a loose alliance in the southern Philippines in recent years. Hapilon was reportedly designated the leader of the alliance.

Vietnam, Indonesia vessels clash in South China Sea

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia says several Vietnamese fishing vessels escaped its waters following a show of force by Vietnam's coast guard in the South China Sea.

Indonesia's Maritime and Fisheries Ministry said Tuesday that Vietnam is holding an Indonesian fisheries officer, who was aboard one of the Vietnamese vessels, and Indonesia has 11 Vietnamese crew members in its custody.

According to Indonesia, the clash Sunday took place north of the Natuna island chain within Indonesia's exclusive economic zone.

The ministry said five Vietnamese-flagged fishing vessels were intercepted by a maritime patrol vessel and were under its control until a Vietnamese coast guard ship rammed the fishing boat with the Indonesian official aboard, sinking it. The ministry said no one was hurt.

It said the Indonesian vessel withdrew after several more Vietnamese coast guard vessels were seen approaching on radar while an Indonesian warship was 30 minutes away.

Vietnam's coast guard declined to comment.

Tensions easily flare in the South China Sea, a major global trading route. China's claim to most of the sea overlaps with the territorial waters of several Southeast Asian nations.

Indonesia has destroyed hundreds of vessels caught fishing illegally in its waters over the past two years, many of them Vietnamese-flagged, as part of a policy of strengthening control over the archipelago nation's vast maritime territory.

Rifky Effendi Hardjianto, secretary-general of the fisheries ministry, told a news conference that ministry officials have met with Vietnam's ambassador and would resolve the incident through normal diplomatic channels. Both sides agreed to avoid a repeat of the clash, he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

S. Korean military court convicts soldier over gay sex

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean military court on Wednesday sentenced an army captain to a suspended prison term for having sex with a fellow male soldier in a ruling human rights groups criticized as regressive and intimidating. A lawyer for the captain said her client was being punished for having consensual sex with his partner in a private space. She said the captain was briefly treated at a hospital for shock following his conviction. "It's a ridiculous ruling," said lawyer Kim In-sook. She said the military penal code, which makes homosexual activity punishable by up to two years in prison, was unconstitutional because it tramples on basic human rights and dignity. South Korea's military, which doesn't reveal how often it pursues cases against soldiers suspected of being gay, didn't immediately make a statement.

Bus plunges into India river, 15 killed and 8 missing

NEW DELHI (AP)—A bus plunged nearly 380 feet (150 meters) into a river in mountainous northern India on Tuesday, killing at least 15 Hindu pilgrims and injuring another seven people, police said. Rescuers recovered 15 bodies and are searching for another eight people, said Police officer Nand Lal. Seven people with injuries were hospitalized. The cause of the accident in Uttarakhand state was not immediately known. The area is nearly 400 kilometers (250 miles) northeast of New Delhi. Uttarakhand state is a popular summer vacation destination for tourists seeking to escape the torrid heat of India's plains. It is also a religious pilgrimage site with four temple towns in the Garhwal Himalayan range. More than 110,000 people are killed annually on India's roads. Most crashes are attributed to reckless driving, poorly maintained roads and aging vehicles.

4 bodies found inside tent at the highest camp on Everest

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A government official and a rescue coordinator say four bodies have been found inside a tent at the highest camp on Mount Everest. Tourism Department official Hemanta Dhakal said the four bodies were found by a team of rescuers who were there to recover the body of a Slovak mountaineer who died over the weekend. The identities of the dead climbers in the tent were still unknown Wednesday and other rescuers were heading there to learn more details. Mingma Sherpa of Seven Summit Treks, who was coordinating the recovery of the Slovak climber's body, said the Sherpa rescuers found the four bodies on Tuesday night. Six climbers have already died on the world's highest mountain this year attempting to reach the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) summit.

World

Warning of 'imminent' attack, Britain raises threat level

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—As officials hunted for accomplices of a suicide bomber and Britain's prime minister warned another attack could be "imminent," thousands of people poured into the streets of Manchester in a defiant vigil Tuesday for victims of a blast at a pop concert—the latest apparent target of Islamic extremists seeking to rattle life in the West.

The attack left at least 22 dead, including an 8-year-old girl, shattering the revelry at a show by American singer Ariana Grande, where strains of electric pop and the sways of innocent young fans quickly gave way to an explosion, a flood of screams and a stampede of panicked concert-goers, many clutching pink balloons and wearing the kitten-ear headbands popularized by Grande.

Touching on that disconnect, British Prime Minister Theresa May said: "We struggle to comprehend the warped and twisted mind that sees a room packed with young children not as a scene to cherish but as an opportunity for carnage."

May said Britain's terror threat level had been raised to critical—meaning another attack may be imminent. The status means armed soldiers could be deployed instead of police at public events including sports matches. The threat level had been at the second-highest rung of "severe" for several years.

AP

People cry after a vigil in Albert Square, Manchester, England, Tuesday May 23, 2017, the day after the suicide attack at an Ariana Grande concert that left 22 people dead as it ended on Monday night.

Source: AP, BBC, manchester-arena.com
Graphic: Staff, TNS

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the blood bath Monday, though a top American intelligence official said the assertion could not be verified. Manchester Police Chief Ian Hopkins identified the bomber as 22-year-old Salman Abedi, who authorities said died in the attack. Police raided two sites in the northern English city, setting off a controlled explosion in one, and arresting a 23-year-old man in a third location.

May said Abedi was born and raised in Britain and a European security official said he was of Libyan descent. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment on ongoing investigations.

At least 20 heavily armed, helmeted police surrounded a modest red brick house listed as Abedi's address in a mixed Manchester suburb at midday on Tuesday and blasted down the door.

"It was so quick. These cars just pulled up and all these police with guns, dogs, jumped out of the car and said to us: 'Get in the house now,'" said Simon Turner, 46, who lives nearby. Later, forensic officers in white coveralls were seen going in and out of the property.

Details on Abedi were slow to trickle out. He was described by neighbors as a tall, thin young man who often wore traditional Islamic dress, but few said they knew him well.

Alan Kinsey, 52, who lives across the street, said his neighbor would often get picked up by another young man in a Toyota and often returned late at night. "I thought he worked in a takeaway or something" because of his late hours, Kinsey said.

Police also searched an apartment in a nearby area that British media reported belonged to Abedi's brother, Ismail.

Late Tuesday, thousands of people, some holding up signs proclaiming "I Love MCR"—an abbreviation for Manchester—held a moment of silence at a vigil for the victims. Lord Mayor Eddy Newman and the city's police chief were among the speakers in front of City Hall in Albert Square, where a banner with a website for a Muslim group said "Love for all, Hatred for None."

Trump touts ultimate peace, but same obstacles remain

JERUSALEM (AP)—President Donald Trump showered his Middle Eastern hosts with praise and declared a breakthrough regional peace within reach. No one contradicted him, but behind the pageantry and politesse a wall of skepticism remains solidly intact.

It's often said that the contours of Israeli-Palestinian peace are well-known. And as Trump professed, much of the Arab world does seem ready to normalize relations with the Jewish state. But the obstacles that bedeviled industrious outside brokers for decades—including Barack Obama and John Kerry—have not been removed.

Trump did not outline his vision for getting around them, or even the process that might enable such a thing. And he asserted he wasn't here to impose and lecture, and that changes must come from the region itself.

It was a detail-free strategy that he has employed with varying success domestically, whether the issue is health care or tax reform. He avoided the key sticking points that scuttled talks in the past, ignoring the status of Jerusalem, Israeli settlement construction, borders or refugees—and did not even utter the words "Palestinian state."

Israeli political commentator Raviv Drucker said afterward that Trump's "understanding of the conflict is as deep as cardboard" and dismissed his ambitions as "almost charlatanism."

But politicians were attentive nonetheless and at times even gushing. Many in both Riyadh and Jerusalem seemed inclined to view Trump as stronger than Obama, and to welcome a realpolitik devoid of pesky humanitarian concerns.

The subtext seemed to be: reserve judgment and handle with caution.

Here's a look at where things stand:

Q: What is the current situation on the ground?

A: The Palestinian Authority, an autonomy government negotiated in the 1990s, controls pockets where most West Bank Palestinians live but which amount to less than 40 percent of the land. It also has lost control of the seaside Gaza Strip, which since 2005 has been free of Israeli troops and settlers, to Hamas militants.

Gaza is blockaded from the sea and air by Israel and its land borders are sealed and controlled by Israel and Egypt. Israel also controls entry and exit to the West Bank and travel within it, and the Palestinians there cannot vote in Israeli elections although Jewish settlers can.

Q: What are these widely envisioned contours of Israeli-Palestinian peace?

A: Peace efforts since 2000 were based on the same foundation: a Palestinian state in all of Gaza and the vast majority of the West Bank. Israel would keep some West Bank areas which contain most of its settlers and swap these for land in Israel proper. There was to be some sharing of Jerusalem. Palestinian refugees and their descendants could move to Palestine, but generally not to Israel, in order to retain its Jewish majority. It was generally assumed Israel would remove any settlers who live too deep inside the West Bank to be easily incorporated into Israel within a redrawn border—perhaps 100,000 of them.

Q: Why has no final peace deal been achieved?

A: Israel's maximal offer never quite touched the Palestinians' minimal demands. For one thing, dividing Jerusalem proved too difficult, considering Israel and Palestine will need a border but everyone wants the city to be open. The Palestinians, despite winks and nods, never formally renounced a refugees' demand to return to long lost properties, a non-starter for Israel. Continued Israeli settlement construction and occasional Palestinian violence further eroded trust.

Q: Where does the Arab world stand?

A: Egypt and Jordan have formal peace treaties with Israel and at least on the security front have increasingly tight relations. In recent years quiet cooperation has developed especially on the intelligence front with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states—Sunni Muslim nations who like Israel see a threatening rival in the Shiite theocracy of Iran.

WORLD BRIEFS

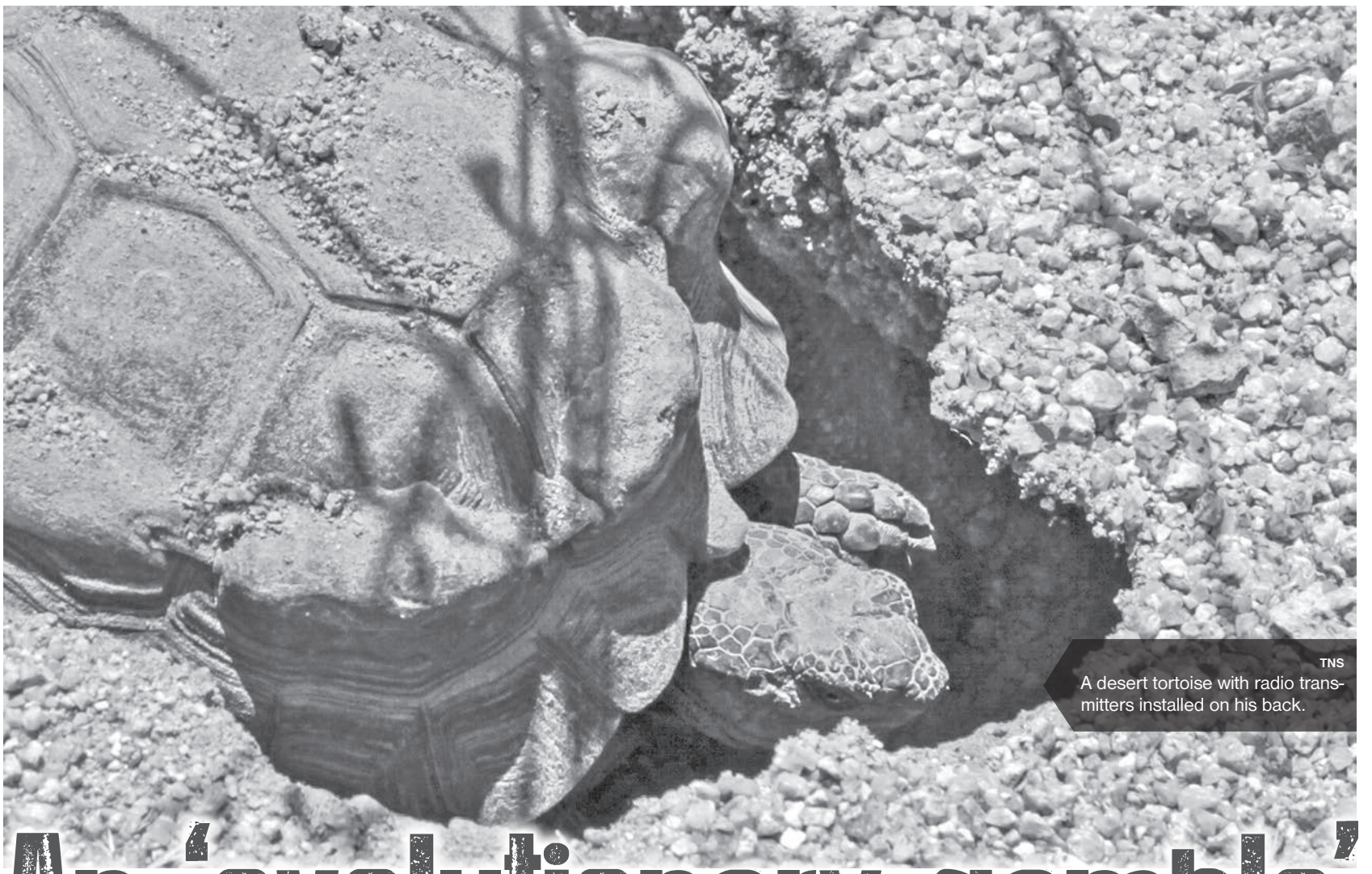
Somali suicide bomber kills 4 at Puntland checkpoint

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up at a military checkpoint in northern Somalia's semiautonomous state of Puntland, killing at least four people, a Somali police officer said Tuesday. The bomber approached soldiers at the checkpoint and detonated explosives strapped to his waist in Bossaso, the region's commercial hub, Col. Ahmed Hussein said. Two soldiers were among the dead, he said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which was the first such suicide bombing in Puntland since 2014, when a bomber targeted the region's police chief.

Qatar says state news website hacked, fake article published

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Qatar says hackers broke into the website of its state-run news agency and published a fake story quoting the country's ruling emir. The hack happened early Wednesday morning and the website of the Qatar News Agency wasn't immediately accessible. The fake article claimed the small, gas-rich nation had ordered its ambassadors from Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates withdrawn over "tension" with the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump. The fake article also quoted Qatar emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani calling Iran an "Islamic power" and saying Qatar's relations with Israel were "good." A statement from Sheikh Saif Bin Ahmed Al Thani, the director of the Qatar's government communications office, said an investigation was ongoing. He said Qatar "will hold all those committed accountable."

Environment



TNS
A desert tortoise with radio transmitters installed on his back.

An 'evolutionary gamble' may be killing Joshua Tree's mother tortoises

By LOUIS SAHAGUN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK, Calif.— Wildlife biologists say an alarming number of female desert tortoise carcasses found earlier this year just outside the southern edge of Joshua Tree National Park may be the result of mothers fighting extinction by exhausting their water and energy to lay eggs, even under stress.

U.S. Geological Survey biologist Jeffrey Lovich, who has monitored tortoises in and around the park for two decades, said the potentially lethal response to prolonged drought may become more common throughout the Southern California desert as temperatures rise and forage diminishes.

"This is still a hypothesis," Lovich said on Monday, "but I believe these tortoises died after continuing to lay clutches of four eggs the size of ping pong balls year after year, using up vital resources they need to survive."

"It was an evolutionary gamble," he said. "If it pays off, their genetic information will be passed on to a new generation of hatchlings in conditions more suitable for survival of the species."

A research team led by Lovich was surveying a study area of several square miles on the northern flanks of the Orocopia Mountains when it discovered the remains of 14 female and three male tortoises, and 15 live animals, most of them males.

Judging from the deterioration of the carcasses and chalkiness of the bones, Lovich concluded the animals perished over the last five to 10 years, a period including five consecutive years of drought regarded as the most severe in recorded history.

The find has stepped up concerns over the fate of tortoises within the nearly 800,000-acre national park, which recent rains made into a showcase of habitat, lush with plants and flowers for the lumbering reptiles to fatten up on.

But vast swaths of terrain carpeted with daisies can only do so much, biologists say, in the face of longer droughts and climate change.

Despite its name, scruffy body armor and status as a symbol of the desert conservation movement, the tortoise is not well adapted to arid landscapes. It evolved thousands of years ago, when the region was cooler and dominated by lakes and marshes fringed with Joshua trees and junipers, Lovich said.

TNS
Wildlife ecologist Michael Vamstad, left, biologist Kristen Lalumiere and biologist Jeff Rangitsch stand by a desert tortoise burrow in Joshua Tree National Park.

Over the past three decades, the park's tortoise population has plummeted from roughly 30,000 to an all-time low of about 3,000, Michael Vamstad, a wildlife ecologist at the park, said.

A federal analysis determined that a viable population of tortoises must maintain an average minimum density of about 10 adults per square mile. The average density within the park today is about nine adults per square mile, Vamstad said.

"We're at a point now where we expect tortoises to disappear in certain areas because there aren't enough of them around to find a mate," he said. "But we believe there will also be pockets with the right combinations of air temperature, moisture and forage to sustain tortoises for years to come."

Over the past century, desert tortoises have been decimated by habitat loss, trampling by cows and sheep, shootings, vehicle strikes, disease, collecting, relocation efforts on military bases and predation by ravens, coyotes and dogs.

Now their deadliest foe is climate change, which is upsetting the delicate balance of life and death conditions for the species in an otherwise intensely managed expanse of habitat within a national park.

"The recent five-year drought is a window into the future of what climate change may look like across the Southwestern United States," Cameron Barrows, a University of California, Riverside ecologist who specializes in the park's wildlife, said. "In certain study plots where we found lots of tortoises even two years ago, we didn't find any this year."

Improving the odds of survival for tortoises hasn't been easy at a time when record numbers of tourists are straining park roads, campsites and services, officials said. The park had 2.5 million visitors in 2016, twice the number seen five years ago, officials said.

In the midst of a spectacular wildflower bloom in March that attracted both hungry tortoises and a crush of camera-toting tourists, three tortoises were struck and killed by cars in a single week.

Officials are considering roadside fencing, which is effective in reducing mortalities of tortoises and other reptiles. It is also controversial, however, because it is expensive to install and maintain, fragments habitat and is an eyesore on federal lands set aside for their natural beauty.

"Climate change has no regard for traffic signs, speed limits, roadside barriers or national park boundaries," said Debra Hughson, a research biologist at the Mojave National Preserve, about 50 miles northwest of the park.

It's not all bad news.

Under a hot morning sun on a recent weekday, park biologist Kristen Lalumiere followed telemetry pings across a desolate arroyo edged with cholla cactus to a radio-collared female desert tortoise the size of a volleyball emerging from a burrow to bask in the sunshine, dine on flowers and, perhaps, find a mate.

Lalumiere peered inside, then smiled and said, "You're looking good, girl — clear eyes, clean nose and flower stains all over your mouth."

Adding a hopeful dose of anthropomorphism, she said, "Single female seeks relationship with strong male willing to fight to protect her. Must enjoy flowers, long slow walks and cuddling up in desert caves."

The tortoise biologists dubbed "Salsa Verde" stared back at her, then retreated into her burrow.

In a nearby burrow, a male tortoise known as "Scuter" was taking a siesta.

Whether or not they produce a new generation of tortoises will not be known for 15 to 20 years because that is how long it takes hatchlings to reach maturity, even in the best of times.

Life & Style

With an arched brow, Roger Moore found humor in Bond, life

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sir Roger Moore always made sure to laugh at himself before the audience could.

With a mere arch of an eyebrow, Moore, whose wit was dryer than James Bond's martinis, could convey a skepticism of his accidental profession, disarming good looks and the suave characters he often played, from Bond to Simon Templar, all while saving the day and charming a scantily clad girl in the process.

Sporting a posh accent and square jaw, Moore, who died Tuesday at age 89, looked the part of a movie star and a debonair international spy. But beneath the surface, the policeman's son from South London, a sickly child and plump kid who always chose a joke over a street fight, saw the inherent ridiculousness of 007—and left an indelible mark on the role, and a generation, because of it.

"You can't be a real spy and have everybody in the world know who you are and what your drink is," Moore often said. "That's just hysterically funny."

A large part of his charm is that Moore never set out to be an actor. As a teenager, on a lark, he tagged along with some friends doing crowd work on the Vivien Leigh and Claude Raines film "Caesar and Cleopatra" and caught the eye of someone who thought he should meet the director,

"He said I think you should be trained. I said, 'Oh how wonderful,'" Moore recalled in an interview. "So I rushed home and told my mother I was going to be Stewart Granger."

Stardom did not come immediately, however. Moore toiled as a working actor, in television and films in the UK, and then in the U.S. as a studio contract player for MGM before breaking through in a few television roles, in "Maverick" and then "The Saint." The long-running show "The Saint" about the witty and charming romantic hero Simon Templar, many noted, was not unlike Moore himself—and would inform how he chose to play James Bond over the course of seven films, starting with "Live and Let Die" from 1973 and ending with "A View to a Kill" in 1985.

AP

British actor Roger Moore, playing the title role of secret service agent 007, James Bond, is shown on location in England in 1972.

For many, "The Spy Who Loved Me," from 1977, is one of the greatest Bond films, and certainly the best for Moore—even though praise at the time was almost backhanded.

"Roger Moore is so enjoyably unflappable that you sometimes have to look closely to make sure he's still breathing," wrote critic Janet Maslin in the New York Times. "But his exaggerated composure amounts to a kind of backhanded liveliness. Though Mr. Moore doesn't compromise the character, he makes it amusingly clear that hedonism isn't all it's cracked up to be."

Moore knew his own shortcomings, and would joke about them readily. He liked to say that the difference between The Saint and James Bond was in the eyebrow.

"In 'The Saint' I did raise my eyebrow," Moore would say. "I don't think I ever raised my eyebrow in Bond ... except possibly when a bomb went off."

He spent a lot of his time talking about those eyebrows that some critics tried to lance him for, drolly explaining that he had only three emotions—one eyebrow raised, the other, or both.

"A lot of the time, I laugh at myself as a defense mechanism," Moore said, always aware that his "even features" were both an asset to stardom and an impediment to being considered a serious actor. There might have been some truth there. Though well-known, Moore never rose to prestige roles. Even in his most well-known part, as Bond, he was doomed to always be compared to his predecessor Sean Connery.

Moore accepted this fate with good humor, insisting throughout his life that Connery's Bond, more macho and a killer, is the definitive and best interpretation.

In fact, most of his accolades, including his knighthood, came from his work off-screen humanitarian with UNICEF, which he found through his friend Audrey Hepburn.

"He does not regard everything as a laugh, but he would die rather than let you see," said his friend Michael Caine.

But he carried on the act, like a good soldier, throughout his life. Even recently, when asked what audiences can expect from his well-reviewed one-man stage show, Moore hesitated only to laugh.

"Two hours good sleep," he said.

Hannity backs off story about murdered DNC staffer

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity said Tuesday he's backing off his speculation about the 2016 murder of Democratic National Committee employee Seth Rich after talking with Rich's family, which had appealed to the media to stop.

The decision took Hannity off a potential collision course with his network, which earlier Tuesday had removed a week-old story about the case from its website because "it was not initially subjected to the high degree of editorial scrutiny we require for all our reporting."

The report quoted a private investigator suggesting that Rich had some connection to WikiLeaks and its leaks of Democratic National Committee emails during the last campaign.

Rich's family has said they don't believe their son, who was shot in July 2016 in Washington, gave any information to WikiLeaks. The investigator has since recanted his claim, and the independent researcher Politifact.com has said the notion that Rich was involved in the leak was flimsy and illogical. No arrests have been made in the shooting. Washington police have said they think Rich was killed in a random robbery attempt.

Hannity, Fox's biggest star and a leading conservative radio talk show host, has said he doesn't believe the robbery theory. Some Trump supporters have been pushing a supposed WikiLeaks connection to counter stories about Russian involvement in the last election.

Hannity said Tuesday that he had corresponded with Rich's brother and that "out of respect for the family's wishes for now, I am not discussing this matter at this time."

"My heart, my soul, my prayers, everything goes out to them in this very difficult time," he said.

He then pivoted to talking about the "destroy Trump" media that he says is continuing to talk about the Russian story without any evidence of collusion in the last election.

Hannity sent mixed signals about whether he was actually through with the Rich story, both on his show and in a later tweet.

"To the extent of my ability, I am not going to stop trying to find the truth," he said. He added that, "at the proper time, we shall continue and talk a lot more."

He said "liberal fascists" were trying to urge his advertisers to leave the show. Fleeing advertisers played a role in last month's drama over Fox's Bill O'Reilly, who was fired by the network following reports of settlements paid to women to keep quiet about allegations of harassment.

"I serve at the pleasure of Fox News Channel and I am here to do my job every night," he said, adding "as long as they seem to want me."

Hannity is the last remaining star of a prime-time lineup that only a year ago also included O'Reilly, Megyn Kelly and Greta Van Susteren. Kelly and Van Susteren now both work for NBC News. Hannity was close to former Fox co-president Bill Shine, and publicly defended Shine after questions were raised about how much Shine knew of alleged harassment by O'Reilly and the late Fox chairman, Roger Ailes. But Shine left the network shortly thereafter.

Although Fox removed the Rich story from its website, its statement did not say the story was wrong. The network said it will continue to investigate the story and provide updates as warranted.

The network had no other comment beyond the published statement on Tuesday.

Ariana Grande fans tremble as they recall Manchester attack

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—Rihanna Hardy had been excited about seeing Ariana Grande ever since she got her concert ticket as a Christmas gift. So when the day came, the 11-year-old left school a couple of hours early to make sure to get to Manchester Arena on time.

Her parents, Ryan and Shauna, took the afternoon off work, and the family drove the 140 miles (225 kilometers) from Newcastle to Manchester. They struggled to find the arena's multistory parking lot, and barely managed to buy Rihanna a black Ariana Grande tour sweatshirt before the concert started.

AP

A woman makes a heart gesture as crowds gather for a vigil in Albert Square, Manchester, England, Tuesday May 23, 2017, the day after the suicide attack at an Ariana Grande concert that left 22 people dead as it ended on Monday night.

But what was supposed to be a special night for Rihanna and thousands of other young concertgoers turned into a tragedy when a suicide bomb blasted off just outside the cavernous hall. It killed 22 people, including an 8-year-old girl, and injured 59—the deadliest attack in Britain in more than a decade.

"Poor Rihanna ... just kept asking every five or 10 seconds, 'Are we going to die?' Those were her exact words," her father said.

The family took their seats, close to the stage, just before the first of two supporting acts warmed up the crowd. The arena, which seats 21,000, was packed. Many clutched pink balloons and donned cat ears, like those the 23-year-old Grande is famous for wearing.

As the former star of the Nickelodeon series "Victorious" sang and danced her way through her set, the arena heated up. Young children and their parents glistened with sweat.

Then, as the concert ended, the horror began.

Just a few minutes after Grande finished her final song, "Dangerous Woman," blew a kiss to the audience and left the stage, the house lights came back on. People began filing toward the exits.

It was then that a suspect identified as 22-year-old Salman Abedi set off his suicide bomb in the foyer, near a road linking the venue to the city's railway station. Witnesses described seeing bolts and other bits of metal at the scene of the blast.

The boom echoed through Manchester Arena, shaking the floor with a hollow thud. Thousands of Ariana Grande fans—many of them youngsters accompanied by their parents—fell silent for a few seconds, in shock. Then the screaming started.

"I thought we were going to die. It was just horrendous," said Rihanna's mother.

Panic descended on the hall.

"It was just sheer chaos," said Kirstyn Pollard, who had a seat close to the stage. "People were trying to get off the balconies. It was awful."

Melissa Andre and two friends clambered over a security barrier in their rush to get out. It was already dented from other concertgoers fleeing the arena, as officials tried frantically to restore order.

"A security official was on stage saying 'Be calm, everything's fine,'" said Andre, 20. "I think they were just saying that to calm people down before they got out. And then when we got out, the alarm went off."

Police were called in at 10:33 p.m. As they arrived, a smell hung in the air—a bit like smoke, a bit like burning, nothing the Hardys had ever smelled before.

"I can't describe it. It was a really awful smell," Shauna Hardy said. "And there was just alarms going off, police everywhere. Sirens everywhere. People running, screaming. It was just crazy. Absolutely crazy."

Ryan Hardy desperately tried to slow down his wife and daughter as they left the arena, worried they might fall in the crush of people fleeing the carnage. They emerged from the stifling heat of the concert hall into the cool night.

"Everyone else was running out the entrance while he was walking out the entrance," Rihanna—still wearing her Ariana Grande sweatshirt—said Tuesday, looking up proudly at her dad.

Tom Cruise reveals 'Top Gun 2' to start filming soon

SYDNEY (AP)—The Danger Zone may have gotten old and dusty, but Tom Cruise says he's about to fly back in.

The 54-year-old actor says the long-discussed sequel to "Top Gun" is a sure thing and should start shooting soon.

Cruise made the announcement Wednesday in response to questions from anchors on the Australian morning news show "Sunrise."

The actor said filming will likely begin within the next year. He added, "It's definitely happening."

Cruise has said in similar interviews that the film was in development and a strong possibility, but has not offered such clear confirmation.

The 1986 Reagan-era flyboy epic propelled Cruise to superstar status.

Jerry Bruckheimer, producer of the original, had been dropping hints too. He posted a picture of himself and Cruise on Saturday's 31st anniversary of the original's release.

AP

In this May 22, 2017, file photo, actor Tom Cruise arrives for the Australian premiere of his movie "The Mummy" in Sydney, Australia.

FCC: No punishment for late-night host Colbert's Trump joke

NEW YORK (AP)—There will be no fine for Stephen Colbert's risque joke about President Donald Trump.

A Federal Communications Commission spokesman said Tuesday that the agency received "thousands" of complaints about the late-night host's May 1 show, so it reviewed the material as "standard operating procedure." It's the FCC's job to police obscene or indecent material on TV when it receives complaints.

The agency found that the joke, which involved Trump, Russian leader Vladimir Putin and a crude word for penis, did not warrant punishment.

Colbert's politically-tinged "Late Show," rife with Trump jokes, has become the most popular of the late-night circuit.

Man puts out a welcome mat only for his side of the family

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 10 years, and he treats my family and friends very different compared to how he treats his own.

A few months ago, my sister called me at 9 p.m. She was driving through on her way to Florida with her 7-year-old daughter and had been trying for an hour to find a hotel at that point. We were only 40 minutes away, so I told her she could stay the night with us. When I told my husband afterward, he flipped out because I didn't ask his permission first.

I have never invited anyone to stay with us before. My family lives far away, but I didn't think it was a big deal to extend the invite because he constantly tells his family and friends they are always welcome. Today he informed me his son is coming to stay a week with his wife and 6-month-old (two weeks from now!).

Am I wrong to feel that if there is a rule, it should apply to both of us, and he should have asked me first?

HOUSE RULES IN FLORIDA

DEAR HOUSE RULES: No, you're not wrong. Because your husband is such a stickler for "asking permission" before inviting relatives to stay, that same courtesy should have been extended to you.

House rules are supposed to be followed by everyone who lives in the household. There seems to be an imbalance of power in yours. Be smart. Talk with a licensed counselor about how to deal with your husband because unless you do, you'll spend the rest of your life playing second fiddle to a controlling, emotional bully.

DEAR ABBY: One of my longtime friends has become extremely religious. I have nothing against religion, but I am non-practicing, although I do believe in something greater. My problem is, now whenever we talk, text, Facebook page and Skype (with our children), everything is about God, religion, how He has a plan for us, etc.

I don't want to offend her, but my son and I do not need to constantly hear about her religious beliefs. My husband and I are raising our son to be a kind, honest person, but are letting him choose what religion (if any) he wants to be a part of when he grows up.

Although we now have only a long-distance friendship (I had to move away), this has put a strain on it because I haven't said anything. What should I do? How should I handle it?

NON-OBSERVANT IN ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR NON-OBSERVANT: The woman means well, so don't be defensive. But do speak up and tell her—nicely—that while you understand religion has become an important part of her life, you would prefer she leave the subject out of your conversations.

Unless trying to convert people is a part of her religion, she will respect your wishes. However, if she doesn't, you will have to decide whether it's worth the annoyance to continue this long-distance relationship.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

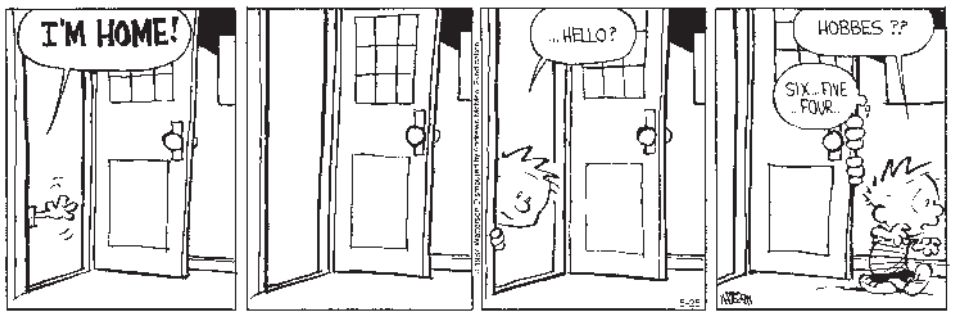
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

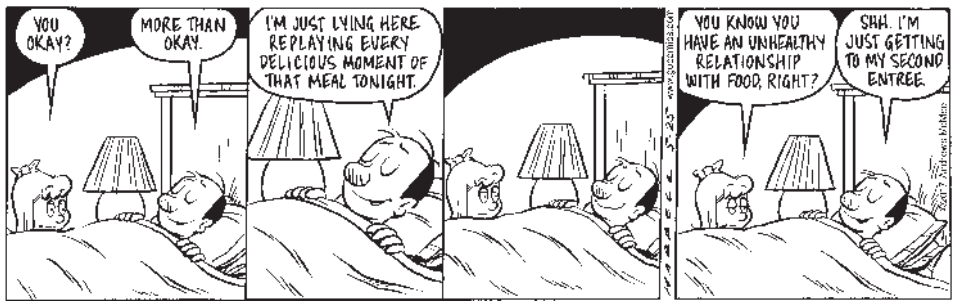


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

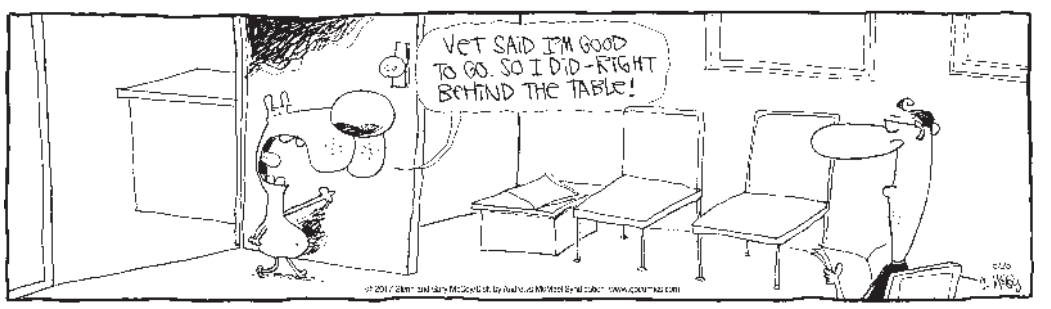
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU OKAY?
MORE THAN OKAY.
I'M JUST LYING HERE REPLAYING EVERY DELICIOUS MOMENT OF THAT MEAL TONIGHT.
YOU KNOW YOU HAVE AN UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH FOOD, RIGHT?
SHH. I'M JUST GETTING TO MY SECOND ENTREE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

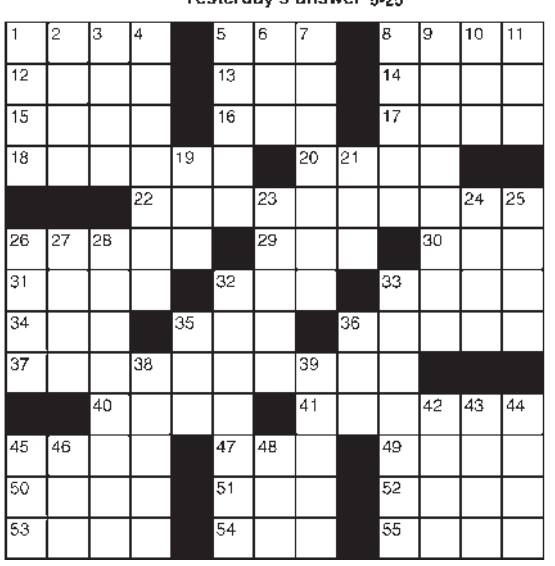
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Thunder god
5 Atlantic fish
8 Bard's river
12 Roof overhang
13 Wahine's gift
14 Eric of "Troy"
15 Asia's — Sea
16 Billboards
17 Prayer ender
18 Fragrant flowers
20 Padlock fastener
22 Narcissus variety
26 Tic
29 Kilmer of "Top Gun"
30 Knock
31 Corn recipe
32 Springy dance
33 Seized vehicle
34 Ballpark fig.
35 Belly
36 Social worker's load
37 Government report
40 Half (Pref.)
41 Vulgar type
45 Tarzan's clique
47 — -la-la
49 Smile
50 Shopping center
51 Snaky fish
52 Oodles
53 Tactic
54 Zodiac animal
55 Male offspring

DOWN
1 Pond duck
2 Mata —
3 Cameo shape
4 Backslide
5 Purse fastener
6 British ref. work
7 Kitchen cloth
8 Shame
9 Dracula's ilk
10 Inseparable
11 A Bobbsey twin
19 Rotating part
21 Piercing tool
23 Musical set in Argentina
24 Carton sealer
25 Heroic verse
26 Gush
27 Ritzy
28 Not-so-noble protagonist
32 Zeus counterpart
33 Krypton, for one
35 Tiara jewel
36 Cartoon frame
38 Irritable
39 Song of praise
42 Singer Guthrie
43 Utah national park
44 Tolkien creatures
45 Pump up the volume
46 Chum
48 Irish actor Stephen

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Aly Raisman, 23; Demetri Martin, 44; Octavia Spencer, 47; Mike Myers, 54.

Happy Birthday: Do your best and the rewards will be astonishing. Take the plunge and make things happen. Control your life and your destiny by putting some muscle behind your ideas and a bit more thought into your plans. Looking ahead will help you set goals that are doable as well as marketable. Don't just dream when reality is so much more engaging. Your numbers are 4, 11, 23, 25, 34, 41, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A steady pace will get you where you want to go. Adapt and make changes as you move forward and you will not waste time. Your ability to go with the flow will impress someone who might recommend you for other projects. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Learn from past mistakes when it comes to emotional matters. Choose to do whatever you can to correct any misgivings before matters become irreversible. Owning up to your role in a situation will bring you peace of mind. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look for a break and take advantage of any prospect that comes your way. Turning to something you feel shows off your skills, experience and knowledge will pay off even if it isn't your first choice. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Use your ingenuity, intelligence and common sense to help navigate your way through any burdens you are faced with. Summarize what needs to be done and take the process one step at a time. Satisfaction will be your reward. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Share your ideas and you will end up collaborating with people who motivate you. Sharing thoughts is one thing, but joint ventures are another. Gather information, but when it comes to moving forward, do your own thing. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Emotions will get in your way. Whether it's you or someone else who is having trouble holding things together, look at the big picture and you'll see a light at the end of the tunnel. Think carefully and follow through. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Get into the game. Take on a challenge and play to win. Your free-spirited approach to life, love and personal gains will help you get what you want with plenty of side projects to keep you entertained. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll have a lot to think about. Before you get involved in any sort of joint venture, consider where you are getting your information from and how you can make sure you don't get in over your head. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Partnership concerns are best dealt with honestly. Don't dodge issues or lie in order to avoid opposition. Dealing with problems before they have a chance to grow into something unmanageable will make you look good and lead to a happy ending. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* The changes going on around you are best observed but not incorporated into your personal life. Take a cautious approach before you decide whether you want to participate. Put safety, common sense and practicality first. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Refuse to let someone's emotional whims get to you. Look past any incident and move on to positive people who are willing to put as much effort into getting ahead and enjoying life as you are. Home improvements are featured. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Call in favors and reconnect with people you have worked with in the past. The path to victory is within reach if you use everything you have experienced in the past to come up with a grand plan. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are original, inventive and resourceful. You are appealing and dedicated.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9				
		9	2		3			
3		5			2		7	
2			5	6		7		
	7		1	3			6	
7		6			4		3	
		4		1	8			
			9					

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

8	4	6	1	9	2	5	7	3
1	9	5	3	7	4	2	8	6
2	7	3	8	6	5	4	1	9
4	8	1	9	2	7	6	3	5
7	5	9	6	8	3	1	4	2
6	3	2	4	5	1	7	9	8
9	2	8	7	4	6	3	5	1
3	6	4	5	1	8	9	2	7
5	1	7	2	3	9	8	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/24

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MAKE YOUR OWN LUCK Solution: 6 letters

S	U	C	C	E	S	S	T	R	O	F	F	E	G	J
H	T	Y	N	I	T	S	E	D	O	R	F	I	O	O
A	O	R	E	V	O	L	C	U	I	A	B	B	L	Y
M	S	R	O	P	L	R	R	E	E	T	S	L	P	O
R	N	D	S	K	S	O	N	L	I	N	O	P	N	U
O	O	G	R	E	E	D	A	T	A	R	A	I	Y	S
C	I	O	Ⓢ	A	S	I	I	L	A	H	S	R	R	C
K	T	L	Ⓔ	Y	C	H	P	N	B	A	E	F	O	H
A	O	D	Ⓒ	N	E	L	O	I	C	T	H	E	T	O
R	M	E	Ⓐ	A	E	N	G	E	T	R	S	V	C	O
M	E	N	L	A	I	B	O	O	C	I	I	A	I	L
A	I	T	S	A	R	T	L	M	A	N	W	S	V	I
F	H	I	T	E	T	R	A	V	E	L	A	I	K	N
Y	N	T	A	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S	H	S	G
G	A	K	C	U	L	E	V	E	R	A	G	E	C	E

©2017 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 5/25

Aces, Attain, Big Break, Business, Cards, Casino, Chance, Clover, Destiny, Effort, Emotions, Financial, Four, Friends, Goals, Golden, Happy, Healthy, Hit It Big, Horseshoe, Jobs, Joyous, Karma, Leaf, Leverage, Lottery, Luck, Money, On a Roll, Plans, Pleasing, Risk, Save, Schooling, Shamrock, Slots, Stroke, Success, Travel, Victory, Wise, Wishes

Yesterday's Answer: Kale

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Fisherman, (1) Sales Representative, (1) Commercial Cleaner. Minimum Salary. Send resume to SMJ Corporation P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

LOOKING FOR HOUSE

Looking to buy or long term lease house/apartment. Will pay cash. Call Lucy at 285-9295

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

share the power of a wish.
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at: Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive. ITC Bldg, Suite 109
Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474 • Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org
Saipan Tribune

BL MACHINE SHOP
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) ACCOUNTANT
At Least 3 years experience in General Accounting & Auditing, Obtained a degree of Bachelor in Accountancy, Knowledgeable in Peach Tree Software Accounting
Contact Person: Liberty Sayson
Contact No. 235-2567

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper.
Please call 235-NEWS

LOOKING TO BUY

American CM Real Estate

Looking for:	Location:
• House	• Garapan
• Apartment	• Navy Hill
• Property	• Capitol Hill
• Commercial Building	• Gualo Rai
	• Beach Front

Feel free to reach Mr. Li or Bruce Chong at 484-6190 or 785-7753 or email at 670.abo.international@gmail.com

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial May 25, 2017 at 9:30 am at the Mayor of Saipan Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes from April 27, 2017
II. Public Comments
III. Reports
1. Administrator
2. Chair
3. COMMITTEES
a. Committee on Awards
b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
d. Committee on Program and Development
e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. Old Business
1. SHEFA on Disability
2. NMTI Request for Open Enrollment
V. New Business
VI. Executive Session – Appeals (closed)
VII. Misc.
VIII. Next Meeting
IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO.: 12-0227
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
MANUEL CH. SANTOS AND ANA RITA SANTOS, aka ANA RITA PALACIOS CABRERA	:	
Defendants	:	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 8, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 637, situated in Kagman III, Phase II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 867 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 18, dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4286, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 2, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 20th day of April, 2017:

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BIDS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 6, 2017 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2017-002

"Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian (20 units)"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Monday, May 15, 2017, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Tinian Field Office during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Tinian Field Office on **Friday, May 26, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 30, 2017.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

TSUNAMI SAIPAN TURNS 10
SOCCER MOMS & DAUGHTERS
MISTER XTERRA OF THE CNMI
FAT LOSS RULES TO KEEP IN MIND
DIET TIPS FOR ENDURANCE ATHLETES
PAIN IS TEMPORARY, PRIDE IS FOREVER
PLUS

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports*, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*.
Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

WHATZIT Solution: Seamy side of life

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

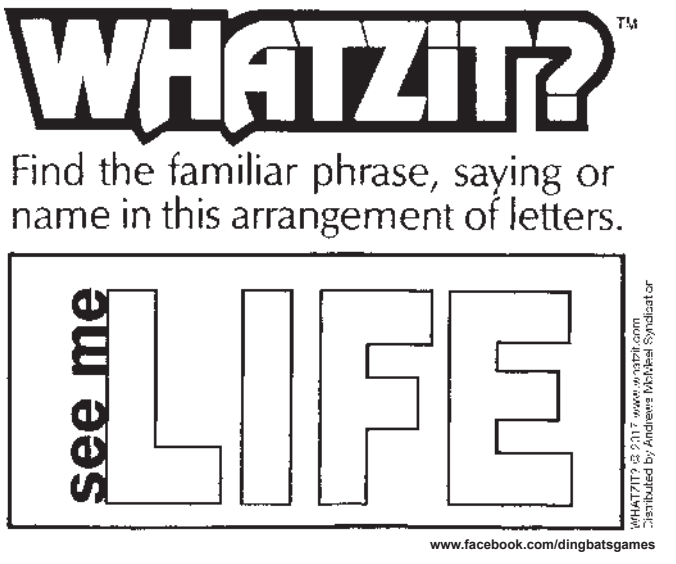
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
see me LIFE
WHATZIT? © 2017 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Irving's 42 carries Cavaliers past Celtics, 112-99

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyrie Irving gritted his teeth, tightened up his left sneaker and hopped to his feet.

The pain couldn't stop him. The Celtics couldn't either.

Irving took over in the second half and finished with 42 points despite playing on a tender ankle, LeBron James added 34 and the Cleveland Cavaliers moved within one win of an almost inevitable third date in the NBA Finals with Golden State by rallying to beat Boston 112-99 on Tuesday night in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals.

With James in foul trouble, Irving was forced to do more than ever and he delivered, scoring 19 in less than five minutes and 33 in a 19-minute stretch.

"The kid is special," James said. "I was happy to sit back and watch him. He was born for these moments."

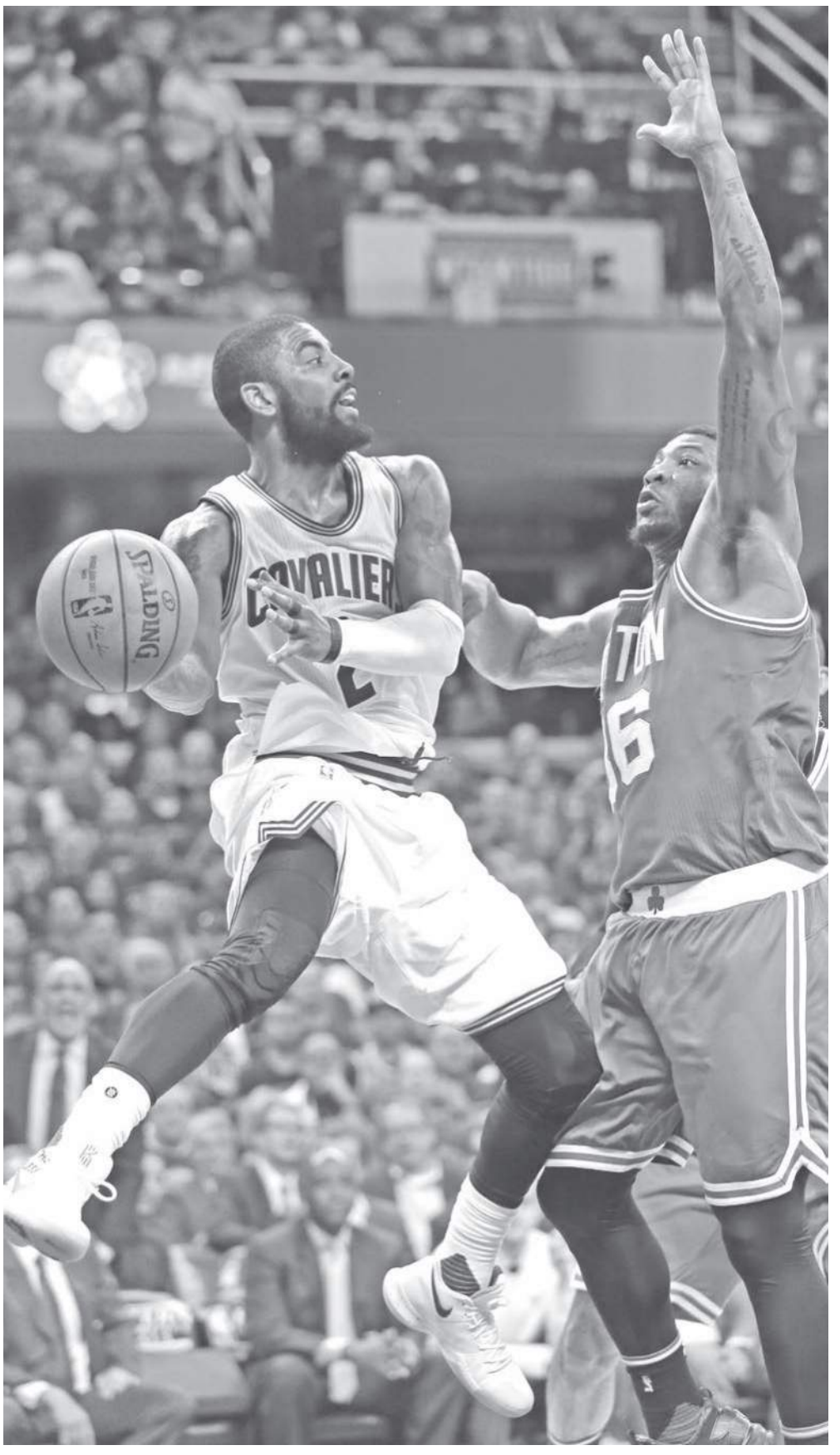
The defending NBA champions, who shot 71 percent in the second half, opened a 3-1 lead in the series and can wrap up their third straight conference title—and a "three-match" against the Warriors—with a win in Game 5 on Thursday night in Boston.

But if Games 3 and 4 are any indication, it won't be easy.

Fighting to keep their season alive, the Celtics aren't giving an inch despite playing without All-Star guard Isaiah Thomas, who may need surgery on a hip injury.

The Cavs, meanwhile, wouldn't be on the cusp of the Finals without Irving.

With Cleveland in jeopardy of dropping its second game in a row after James followed



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving (2) passes around Boston Celtics' Marcus Smart (36) during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals, Tuesday, May 23, 2017, in Cleveland.

an 11-point Game 3 debacle by picking up four first-half fouls, Irving put on a breathtaking one-man show.

Freezing Boston defenders with his dribble and driving to the basket whenever he wanted, Irving made six layups, two 3-pointers and a free throw in a dizzying span of 4:48. He capped his blistering 19-point outburst with a 3 in the final second of the quarter and celebrated at midcourt by pretending to put two pistols back in his holster.

"He saw Bron went out and he wanted to put the team on his shoulders," Cavs coach Tyronn Lue said. "He did that."

Irving said he was driven by the thought of the Cavs seeing their series lead vanish.

"In the back of my mind, I thought, 'They can't tie up the series,'" he said. "We can't go back to Boston tied 2-2. We needed everything tonight."

Irving put a scare into the Cavs and their fans when he stepped on Terry Rozier's foot and rolled his ankle. He stayed on the floor for a few moments before sitting up and re-tying his sneaker. Nothing was keeping him out.

"It was one of those games we had to fight through and we had to earn it," he said.

Celtics coach Brad Stevens was disappointed with his team's defense on Irving, who was able to spread the floor while surrounded by shooters.

"There's choices," Stevens said. "I'm not sure there are good choices. When he gets going like that, he's tough to stop. The ones we gotta look at are the ones he got at the rim."

Kevin Love added 17 points and 17 rebounds for the Cavs, now 11-1 in the postseason.

Avery Bradley scored 19 and Jae Crowder 18 for Boston.

Celtics' Isaiah Thomas visits specialist, surgery undecided

CLEVELAND (AP)—Boston Celtics star guard Isaiah Thomas has visited one hip specialist and plans to see others.

Thomas, who is done for the season with a right hip injury he sustained in March and aggravated in the playoffs, told Celtics coach Brad Stevens that he intends to get "one or two more opinions" before a course of action is set. It's possible Thomas could undergo surgery on his hip. The Celtics have described Thomas' condition as a tear in his hip.

Stevens reiterated before Game 4 that Thomas will not play again this season, even if the Celtics push the defending champion Cavaliers beyond five games in the Eastern Conference finals.

Thomas was ruled out for the remainder of the postseason on Saturday, ending his inspiring playoff run following the tragic death of his younger sister.

Stevens said Thomas told him he's still sore and there is still significant inflammation in his hip.

Warriors ready for third straight NBA Finals appearance

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Kevin Durant does not need to be told that Golden State should have a muted celebration after winning the Western Conference Finals.

Durant is fully aware a tough challenge waits for them. It's why Durant signed with the Warriors and why Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green embraced him at the expense of their own stats.

"We have a bigger goal in mind," Durant said.

Golden State has a chance to earn their second championship in three years after sweeping the San Antonio Spurs with a 129-115 victory Monday night.

The Warriors became the first team in league history to open the playoffs 12-0, which provides them with a week of rest prior to their third straight finals appearance.

Golden State will host Game 1 of the NBA Finals on June 1 against either Cleveland or Boston. The Cavaliers hold a 2-1 lead in the Eastern Conference Finals, but Curry alluded the Warriors are expecting a rematch with LeBron James and company.

"We all know, obviously, who we're going to play," Curry said. "We'll be watching the Eastern Conference Finals to see how that unfolds. But it will be easy to start this new chapter and really just lock in on what's in front of us."

Facing Cleveland will resurrect chatter of Golden State's collapse in last season's finals, which saw the Cavaliers rally from a 3-1 deficit to win the franchise's first championship.

"This year is a totally different year, different group, different journey," Curry said.

The biggest difference is the addition of Durant, who left Oklahoma City in the offseason to sign with Golden State.

His presence has given the Warriors a deep and talented roster headlined by four All-Stars in Durant, Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green. But Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said to credit talent as the sole reason behind Golden State's current run is disrespectful.

"They're really talented, but that's not everything that describes them," Popovich said. "This is maybe the best defensive team in the league on top of everything. So, they don't just play with talent. They execute at the defensive end of the floor. On offense, no team is more unselfish finding the open man and that sort of thing."

The Warriors have shown their strength by blasting through the playoffs in the normally rugged West.

Golden State is shooting 50 percent from the field while averaging 118.3 points in 12 playoff games. As good as the offense has been, it's been the Warriors' defense that has been key to their playoff dominance. Golden State held San Antonio, Utah and Portland to 102 points and averaged 9.2 steals per game.

"I think our defensive intensity has been amazing," Green said. "Overall, I think we've done a great job locking in on the defensive side, scrambling around, trying to take away team's No. 1 option. That doesn't necessarily mean the player, just trying to make them go to a second or third option in the set and also trying to cover that. I think we've been doing a great job of that."

The addition of David West and Matt Barnes has given the Warriors two more defensive-minded players off the bench to go along with Andre Iguodala and JaVale McGee.

Still, Golden State coach Mike Brown knows better execution is critical in the finals.

"We feel like we can play better," said Brown, who is filling in on the sideline for an injured Steve Kerr. "To get to our ultimate goal of winning the whole thing, we've got to be better on both ends of the floor."

As a 23-year-old playing with the Thunder, Durant learned a heightened effort is needed in the Finals. Oklahoma City celebrated advancing to the 2012 Finals only to be steamrolled by Miami in five games.

Experience has taught Durant that winning the West is no reason to relax or celebrate.

"Yea, it's a little different, definitely. I can't lie," Durant said. "I went when I was 23-years-old, and it felt like the Western Conference Finals was almost like the championship. Just getting to that point, you know how hard it is and how much work you put in to start the season. So, it's a little different now, obviously.

"I feel like we could definitely be better."

Twins beat Orioles 2-0 on Santana's 10th career shutout

BALTIMORE (AP)—Sometimes, Ervin Santana is so good it's difficult to describe in words.

Santana pitched a two-hitter for his 10th career shutout, and the surging Minnesota Twins beat the Baltimore Orioles 2-0 Tuesday night.

"You really can't throw enough superlatives his way when you have a performance like that," Twins manager Paul Molitor said.

Santana (7-2) struck out five, walked two and retired the final 14 batters with only 42 pitches.

"The efficiency speaks to how well he pitched," Molitor concluded.

The lone hits against Santana were a second-inning single by Welington Castillo and a single in the fifth by Jonathan Schoop. Only one runner got past first base.

It was the right-hander's 18th complete game, the second this season.

Mixing a fastball with an effective changeup and a wicked slider, Santana baffled a power-laden lineup from start to finish.

"I was able to locate the fastball, then finish them off with the slider," Santana said. "I don't focus on the speed. I just try to throw strikes and keep the ball down and give our team a chance to win."

After banging out 21 hits in a 14-7 win over Baltimore on Monday, the AL Central-leading Twins relied on exceptional pitching to earn their ninth victory in 13 games.

"Two different games," Molitor said. "It's funny how two teams can match up on consecutive days and have dramatically different baseball."

Minnesota became the first team this season to capture a series at Camden Yards (the Orioles were 7-0-0). Now 13-5 on the road, the Twins on Wednesday will seek to complete their first three-game sweep in Baltimore since 1996.

Dylan Bundy (5-3) pitched well for the Orioles, but Santana was better. Bundy allowed two runs and six hits over seven innings, striking out seven and walking three.

"I had my curveball working this outing and I think that played a big role," Bundy said.

If Santana wasn't so darn good, the postgame chatter might have centered around Baltimore's big right-hander.

"He twirled a really good game tonight for us, and he did his part," Orioles left fielder Trey Mancini said.

Byron Buxton hit an RBI single in the fifth and Brian Dozier homered in the seventh for a 2-0 lead. That was enough offense for Santana, the only pitcher in the majors with two shutouts this season.

AP

Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Ervin Santana throws to the Baltimore Orioles in the first inning of a baseball game in Baltimore, Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

A crowd of 13,294 endured a persistent rain shower that wasn't quite fierce enough to cause umpires to stop play.

The weather suited Santana just fine. He lowered his ERA to 1.80 and improved to 4-0 with a 0.31 ERA on the road.

Red Sox 11, Rangers 6

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts had three RBIs and twice scored on wild pitches, and Dustin Pedroia hit a two-run double for Boston.

Rick Porcello (3-5) won for just the second time at home despite allowing 11 hits in 6 2/3 innings. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner gave up four earned runs.

Joey Gallo hit 14th homer for Texas, which had won 11 of 12. Andrew Cashner (1-4) gave up five runs in five innings.

Angels 4, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Cameron Maybin and Mike Trout hit back-to-back home runs to begin the game and Matt Shoemaker won his third consecutive start for Los Angeles.

Maybin led off by homering on a 3-1 pitch from Alex Cobb (4-4). Trout connected on the next pitch for his 15th homer, including seven in his last 11 games.

Shoemaker (4-2) gave up three hits, three walks and struck out five in 6 1/3 innings.

Los Angeles has won seven of nine. The Rays have lost three in a row after a season-high four-game winning streak.

Royals 6, Yankees 2

In New York, Danny Duffy beat the Yankees for the second time in a week and rookie Jorge Bonifacio capped a three-run, seventh-inning rally with a go-ahead, two-run homer for Kansas City.

Lorenzo Cain, Whit Merrifield and Mike Moustakas also homered late for the Royals, who went deep four times in a span of nine batters.

New York rookie Jordan Montgomery took a one-hit shutout and 2-0 lead into the seventh before a solo homer by Cain, who had been hitless in 14 at-bats. Adam Warren (1-1) took the loss.

Duffy (4-3) gave up two runs in seven innings.

Astros 6, Tigers 2

In Houston, Juan Centeno homered in his Houston debut and Yuli Gurriel also connected.

Centeno, who has played for the Mets, Brewers and Twins, filled in for catcher Brian McCann, later singled and scored.

Houston starter Lance McCullers (5-1) allowed one hit in five innings to extend his AL-leading streak of scoreless innings to 22.

Detroit starter Jordan Zimmermann (4-3), who turned 31 on Tuesday, yielded four runs in six-plus innings.

Nationals 10, Mariners 1

In Washington, Anthony Rendon homered twice and drove in five runs, and Joe Ross returned from the minors to allow one run over a career high-tying eight innings for Washington.

Bryce Harper hit 14th home run and Jayson Werth almost homered off Chris Bergman (1-2), who allowed all of the Nationals' runs and 14 of their 15 hits.

Ross (2-0) showed no signs of the late April struggles that ended with a demotion to Triple-A. He yielded five hits and a walk while striking out six.

Rockies 8, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Charlie Blackmon hit a pair of two-run homers and German Marquez tossed six effective innings for Colorado.

Gerardo Parra also went deep to help the NL leading-Rockies win their major league-best 17th road game.

Marquez (3-2) allowed one run and seven hits, striking out six.

Philadelphia is 4-19 since an 11-9 start.

Zach Eflin (0-2) gave up eight runs and 10 hits in six innings.

Cubs 4, Giants 1

In Chicago, Jon Lester pitched a four-hitter and the Cubs beat Johnny Cueto and San Francisco in a rainy rematch of last year's playoff opener.

Anthony Rizzo, Kyle Schwarber and Jason Heyward homered for Chicago.

Lester and Cueto hooked up in a memorable pitchers' duel in Game 1 of the NL Division Series last October, with Chicago winning 1-0.

Lester (3-2) outpitched Cueto (4-4).

Indians 8, Reds 7

In Cincinnati, Edwin Encarnacion hit two of Cleveland's four homers off rookie Amir Garrett and scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch.

The Indians split the two-game series in Cincinnati, and now the teams play twice in Cleveland. The Indians have won seven of the last eight between Ohio's teams.

Andrew Miller (3-0) got help from right fielder Daniel Robertson, who threw Jose Peraza out at the plate in the eighth. Cody Allen escaped in the ninth to extend his franchise record by converting his 13th straight save try to start a season.

Drew Storen (1-1) took the loss.

Mets 9, Padres 3

In New York, Michael Conforto homered twice and had a career-high four RBIs, including three on two hits during the Mets' biggest first inning in 13 years, and Matt Harvey won his first home start since getting suspended.

Lucas Duda broke out of a slump with three hits and three RBIs, and manager Terry Collins earned his 500th victory with the Mets. His team got a leadoff homer and a two-run single from Conforto in a seven-run first against Jhoulys Chacin (4-4).

Harvey (3-3) labored through five innings to win for the first time since April 11 at Philadelphia. The embattled former ace was 0-3 in his previous six starts and got banned three days by the Mets after skipping a home game this month following a late night on the town.

Blue Jays 4, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Kendrys Morales hit a two-run homer to lead Toronto.

Six of the first eight Blue Jays batters reached base against Jimmy Nelson (2-3).

Danny Barnes (1-2) won in relief. Roberto Osuna earned his seventh save in 10 chances.

Diamondbacks 5, White Sox 4

In Phoenix, Jake Lamb and Chris Herrmann homered and Arizona held off the White Sox for the Diamondbacks' seventh win in eight games.

Patrick Corbin (4-4) settled down after a tough start to get the victory. The left-hander went six innings plus one batter, allowing three runs and scattering eight hits.

Chicago rookie Dylan Covey (0-4), still looking for his first big-league win after eight starts, left the game with one out in the third inning with left oblique soreness.

Jose Abreu cut the lead to 5-4 with a leadoff home run of Jorge De La Rosa to start the eighth. It was his 100th career homer and all nine of them this season have come on the road.

But J.J. Hoover came on with one out and the bases loaded to strikeout Kevan Smith and Yolmer Sanchez to preserve the lead.

Fernando Rodney pitched a perfect ninth for his 11th save in 13 tries.

Braves 6, Pirates 5

In Atlanta, Matt Adams singled in the winning run with about 200 fans left in the stands for the ninth inning, lifting the Braves over the Pirates in a game delayed over three hours by rain.

The delay started in the top of the seventh inning and ended at 12:51 a.m. The game finished just before 2 a.m.—6 hours, 15 minutes after first pitch.

After Pittsburgh scored twice in the top of the ninth, Atlanta got two runs in the bottom of the inning. Nick Markakis had an RBI double to tie it at 5, and after Matt Kemp was intentionally walked, Markakis scored from second on Adams' single to left.

Pirates closer Tony Watson (2-1) faced six batters in blowing the save in the ninth.

Atlanta has won nine of 12. Luke Jackson (1-0) got his first career win.

Marlins 11, Athletics 9

In Oakland, California, Justin Bour matched his career high with four hits including his fourth home run in five games to highlight Miami's best offensive game of the season, and the Marlins held off a late surge to beat the Athletics.

Yonder Alonso hit his 13th home run of the season for the A's, but left with a bruised right hand after getting hit by a pitch in the sixth. Ryon Healy and Rajai Davis also homered for Oakland.

Jose Urena (2-2) pitched five uneven innings for his first career interleague win in 10 appearances.

Jesse Hahn (1-4) took the loss and left the game in the third inning with a triceps strain.

Dodgers 2, Cardinals 1, 13 innings

In Los Angeles, Logan Forsythe doubled in a run in the 13th inning to lift the Los Angeles Dodgers over the St. Louis Cardinals 2-1 after a stellar duel between starters Clayton Kershaw and Lance Lynn.

Forsythe played for the first time in a month and struck out in his first four at-bats before walking in the 11th and delivering the winning hit in the 13th. His double off Jonathan Broxton (0-1) scored Enrique Hernandez.

Kershaw and Lynn struck out 10 batters and allowed a run each, with Kershaw going nine innings and Lynn pitching eight. Kershaw missed out on his majors-leading eighth victory by giving up a run in the ninth. Randal Grichuk singled, advanced to second on a groundout then scored on a wild pitch to tie it at 1.

Josh Fields (1-0) pitched the 13th for Los Angeles.

Joc Pederson left the game after a frightening collision with Yasiel Puig in the 10th inning.

Shirley's FC-1 takes solo Division B lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club-1 is now alone at the top spot in the team standings in Division B of the M-League following a 1-0 victory over Kanoa FC last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Shirley's-1 is still undefeated this season, holding a 5-1-0 win-draw-loss record to lead Shirley's-2 (4-1-1), Kanoa (3-2-1), Korean Football Association (3-2-1), Sun Palace (2-1-3), Matansa (1-1-4), Women's National Team (1-0-5), and the Thundercats (0-2-4).

Alvin Takai made the winning goal for the division leader as he hit his target in the 33rd minute.

In other Division B results, Shirley's-2 edged Sun Palace, 2-1, to lurk behind Shirley's-1. Dhiraj Chhetri and Louis Ryu scored for Shirley's-2 with the former finding the back of the net in the fifth minute and the latter knocking in the go-ahead goal in the 36th minute. Qiwei Wang nailed the lone goal for Sun Palace in the 15th minute.

Duplicating Shirley's-2's close win was KFAS, which slipped past Matansa, 2-1.

Dong Gu Lee handed the victory to KFAS with his goal in the second half. Edwin Kim logged the other goal for KFAS in the first half, while Kamrul Kamrul registered the equalizer for Matansa, also in the first frame.

In last Saturday's Division B game, the Women's National Team finally broke into winning column after downing the Thundercats, 4-1.

Irish Pagarao recorded a hat trick in WNT's first victory of the season, while Jeralyn Castillo hit the other goal for the pool. Don Cabrera scored the only goal for the Thundercats, which are still winless in six games to remain at the bottom of the team standings.

In Division A, the CNMI National Boys U18 Team regained the lead in its group after dominating Kanoa FC, 6-1.

Sunjoon Tenorio fired three goals, while Thaiphi Austria, Jonah Pohl, and Anthony Fruit contributed one apiece to give the Teen Ayuyus a 5-0-1 mark. Tenorio and company are ahead of MP United (4-1-1), TanHoldings (4-0-2), Paire/Hawaiian Rock (2-0-4), Kanoa (1-1-4) and Sun Palace (1-0-5).

Austria lit up the board first for the Teen Ayuyus with his shot in the 11th minute, while Tenorio had back-to-back goals, scoring in the 13th and 25th before completing the hat trick in the 52nd. Pohl and Fruit had their goals in the 33rd and 53rd minute, respectively, while Kanoa's lone goal came from Daiki Monzen in the 29th minute.

In other results, TanHoldings won over Paire/Hawaiian Rock, 5-3, while MP United got a free victory (via forfeiture) against Sun Palace.

Martin Jambor and Sean Perez knocked in a pair of goals for TanHoldings, while Mareko Tekopua chipped in one. Yuya Kunimune posted all three goals for Hawaiian Rock.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Shirley's FC-1 player, right, steps in on defense while a Kanoa FC striker gets ready to kick the ball during the second half of their Division B game in the M-League last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

BSI

From Page 28

Iguel led off for the BSI Aces in the last inning and singled. His brother Jesus also had a base hit, while Ben Jones blasted another single for the squad and sent Juan home to knot the count. Saralu was next at bat and with Jesus on third and no out, the BSI Aces third baseman let go off two low pitches from closer A.J. Lizama before making contact with the third one. The ball headed past second base and in between the center and right field with the Bears struggling to pick it up allowing Jesus to sprint home for the winning run.

With the thrilling victory, the BSI Aces moved a win away from dethroning the Bears, who incidentally swept the former in last year's best-of-five title showdown. Game 2 of the BSI Aces-Bears short Final Four series will be played today with the defending champions hoping for a win to force a rubber.

The Game 1 loss was a sorry one for the Bears as they led early after shutting down the BSI Aces in the first three innings, 4-0. The Bears even appeared set to pull away when they added two more runs at the top of the fourth for a 6-0 advantage. Jeffrey Lizama pitched for the defending champions in the early part of the game and threw a no-hitter in the 3.2 innings he worked the mound before being relieved by Kiku Lizama.

However, the Bears slowly lost their good lead, as the BSI Aces started to rally at the bottom of the fourth after scoring four runs. Jesus Iguel had an RBI single and also reached off a Bears error at centerfield, while John Tudela made a triple that brought Jones home. Manny Cabrera scored the BSI Aces' other off another Bears' defensive lapse.

The BSI Aces then tied the match after five complete innings off Angel Falig and Barry Sunumai's runs, while the Bears temporarily regained the upper hand at the top of the sixth off Jose Lizama's RBI single. At the bottom of the seventh, the BSI Aces forced the second standoff when Saralu singled and sent Jesus Iguel home, while neither team scored in the eighth, keeping the series opener in a deadlock.

At the top of the ninth, the Bears were called for two quick outs, but they remained patient and later capitalized on Saralu's errors to break the tie anew. However, Saralu redeemed himself in the end and moved the BSI Aces closer to a return trip to the finals, which will be a best-of-five affair.

WSR

From Page 28

The Kingfishers marched into the finals after dominating Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in the semifinals, 5-0. In the other Final Four pairing, Garapan also blanked Koblerville, 3-0, for its second finals appearance since joining the inaugural competition two years ago.

Garapan, WSR, GTC, and Koblerville moved into the semis after placing in the Top 2 in the round-robin competition in their respective pools. Kagman Elementary School, Private Schools, San Vicente Elementary School, and Oleai Elementary School also joined the NEA Cup.

NEA is NMIFA's grassroots program, with the association's pool of coaches and visiting Japanese players going to both private and public schools to select 12 students per school and train them for 10 weeks. The program per season culminates with the NEA Cup and NMIFA recognizes the champion team and awards medals to MVPs from each school.

Mary Joy Aniana was named MVP for WSR, while the Ben Poon and Jacky Lee-coached GTC chose Carvin Cruzat as the MVP. Other MVP awardees were Khristian David of Garapan (coached by Jersh Angeles); Teddy Brobesong of Koblerville (Rodwealth Espana); Tarvin Blas of San Vicente (Angie Ito and Marielle Gariguez); Heaven Murphy of Kagman (Yohei Kamikawa, Daiki Monzen, and Yuya Kunimune); Javen Montenegro of Oleai (Jon Takano); and Kaito Rechucher of Private Schools (Jeralyn Castillo and Mikky Vargas). The most valuable players from each school were picked based on their performance, teamwork and fair play during the NEA Cup.

This season's NEA Cup drew 128 young players and NMIFA would like to thank each school and their principals and teachers for allowing the students to train and enjoy and play soccer.

SCHORR

From Page 28

Joining Villanueva and Schorr and the Filipino players in the Round of 8 at the lower half of the draw were No. 4 and Japan's Shunsuke Mitsui and Kenjiro Shimizu and India's Kaushik Hariharan and Thailand's Guntinun Sootinun-Opar, who eliminated the Philippines' Benjamin Martin and India's Mann Shah, 2-6, 7-5, 10-8, and Hong Kong's Man San Chan and Thailand's Nithikorn Changchroenkul, 6-4, 6-4, respectively.

At the upper half of the draw, the qualifiers were top seeds Hsiang Yu Chuang and Yi Jui Lo of Chinese-Taipei; Hong Kong's Chun Lam and Thailand's Wanchaichana Phasitwasan; No. 3 and Japan's Ryotaro Koshiba and Hisanori Suzuki; and Hong Kong's Park Hong Chan and Chun Ho Chow.

Chan and Chow won over Japan's Nowa Matsubayashi and South Korea's Ibin Nam, 6-1, 6-3; Koshiba and Suzuki defeated Australia's Tomi Perica and Stefan Storch, 6-4, 6-4; Lam and Phasitwasan swept the CNMI's Ken Song and Japan's Goki Satoi, 6-1, 6-0; and Chuang and Lo outclassed Japan's Hiroki Fujita and South Korea's Dongheyon Kim, 6-2, 6-2.

In the women's doubles, the top-ranked Yun Chen Hsieh and Chao Yi Wang of Chinese-Taipei booked a semis ticket after ousting Japan's Nanari Katsumi and Hiromi Sekiguchi, 6-3, 6-1, and winning via walkover against another Japanese duo in Rina Miyanishi and Rinka Oyama.

Seven other pairs made it to the quarterfinals after winning their first round matches. Japan's Kokomi Koyama and Konomi Miyakawa edged Chinese-Taipei's Tzu Hsun Hsu and Hong Kong's Alicia Yue, 7-6 (1), 7-5; Wei Ning Fang and Chui Kei Leung routed the CNMI's Malika MIyawaki and Guam's Tara Usita-Lee, 6-0, 6-0; Momoko Hoshino and Mua Shigeta booted out Kristina and Tiana Stojkovic, 6-1, 6-3; Akari Miyazaki and Yuki Sakurai won over Yu Hua Cheng and Yung Chueh Dai, 6-2, 6-4; Chen Hsyun Hiseh and Mio Kosaki topped the CNMI's Grace Choi and Maria Gregoire, 6-0, 6-2; and No. 2 Otoha Aoki and Al Yamaguchi downed the CNMI's Isabel Heras and Yurika Kubo, 6-0, 6-4.

Meanwhile, in the earlier singles division matches, Villanueva, Colin Ramsey, and Steven Goodwin dropped their openers. Goodwin bowed to No. 2 Storch, 1-6, 0-6, while Ramsey and Villanueva fell to Hong Kong's Man San Chang, 6-0, 6-1, and Japan's Hiroki Fujita, 1-6, 2-6, respectively.

No CNMI bet survived the first round in the boys singles play, which will have its quarterfinal round today. The host country had the same tough fate in the girls singles competition, which also completed its first round matches yesterday and will start the battle for the Round of 8 slots this morning.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	26	17	.605	—
Baltimore	25	19	.568	1½
Boston	23	21	.523	3½
Tampa Bay	23	25	.479	5½
Toronto	20	26	.435	7½

Central Division

Minnesota	24	18	.571	—
Cleveland	24	20	.545	1
Detroit	21	23	.477	4
Chicago	20	24	.455	5
Kansas City	19	26	.422	6½

West Division

Houston	31	15	.674	—
Texas	24	22	.522	7
Los Angeles	25	23	.521	7
Oakland	20	25	.444	10½
Seattle	20	26	.435	11

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	27	17	.614	—
Atlanta	20	23	.465	6½
New York	19	24	.442	7½
Miami	16	28	.364	11
Philadelphia	15	28	.349	11½

Central Division

Milwaukee	25	20	.556	—
St. Louis	22	20	.524	1½
Chicago	23	21	.523	1½
Cincinnati	21	24	.467	4
Pittsburgh	20	26	.435	5½

West Division

Colorado	30	17	.638	—
Arizona	28	19	.596	2
Los Angeles	27	19	.587	2½
San Francisco	20	27	.426	10
San Diego	16	31	.340	14

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SSC at 2017 Guam Swimming Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Jinju Thompson, right, joins Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Aika Watanabe, left, and Tsunami Guam's Roxanne Mikel at the podium during the awards ceremony for the girls 13 to 14 age group of the 2017 Guam Swimming Championships held over the weekend at the Hagatna Pool.

From left, Taiga Sato, Kento Akimaru, Christian Villacrusis, and David Boyer pose for a photo before joining their respective races.

Kento Akimaru joins the 100m butterfly event.

Jinnosuke Suzuki competes in the 50m breaststroke.

Saipan Swim Club swimmers enjoy a light moment at the pool as they cool down after a race.

Saipan Swim Club's Jinju Thompson does the breaststroke part of the 200m individual medley race.

Saipan Swim Club swimmers, coach Jacoby Winkfield, back row right, and their supporters pose for a photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport before heading to Guam last week.

Lennosuke Suzuki, right, waits for the start of his race.

Irving's 42 carry Cavaliers past Celtics, 112-99

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Twins beat Orioles 2-0 on Santana's 10th career shutout

PAGE 25

Schorr, Villanueva enter quarters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Robbie Schorr and Moris Villanueva gave the CNMI its first win in the 2017 Northern Marianas Juniors Championships after sweeping their opening round opponents in the doubles competition of the Juniors ITF event yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Robbie Schorr receives a serve during his and Moris Villanueva's doubles game against Vincent Tudela and Japan's Kanata Abe in the 2017 Northern Marianas Juniors Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Villanueva and Schorr, who are wild card entries to the 16-team main draw, eased past fellow Commonwealth bet Vincent Tudela and Japan's Kanata Abe in the first set, 6-1, before sweating out a 7-5 triumph in the second to remain in contention in the Grade 5 tournament. With the victory, Schorr and Villanueva moved into the quarterfinals where they will face the No. 2 seed pair of Manuel Balce and Michael Francis Eala of the Philippines. The Filipino duo also needed only two sets to beat Hong Kong's Kyle Tang and Macau's Kun Teng Tche, 6-3, 6-3.

See SCHORR on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
William S. Reyes Elementary School, left, and Koblerville Elementary School players chase the ball during their pool play game in the National Elite Academy Cup Spring 2017 last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

BSI Aces nose out Bears in Game 1

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

You know it's the playoff round in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League when games go down to the wire.

A day after the Falcons pulled off an improbable 4-3 victory over Go See Mark, the BSI Aces escaped with a 9-8 win against the defending champions Chalan Kanoa Bears in Game 1 of their own best-of-three semis series last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Nokki Saralu delivered the winning hit at the bottom of the ninth and last inning, making up for an earlier error that put the Bears ahead, 8-7, after the top of the ninth. Saralu, who played third base for the BSI Aces failed to catch a grounder from Henry Lizama, giving Freddy Songao enough time to run from second to home and allowing the Bears to break the deadlock. Saralu would later commit another booboo that brought Peyton Lizama to third, but fortunately for the BSI Aces, the latter was left stranded and Henry was stuck at second after Jeffrey Lizama was booted out on a 4-3 play.

Down by only one, Juan

See BSI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
BSI Aces players celebrate after edging the Chalan Kanoa Bears, 9-8, in Game 1 of their semis series in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WSR rules NEA Cup anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School shut down Garapan Elementary School, 2-0, in the finals of the National Elite Academy Cup Spring 2017 last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

The title win was the Kingfishers' second in a row as they also topped the 2016 fall season of the NEA after edging Private Schools, 3-2. Last weekend's championship game was WSR's fourth straight finals appearance, too as it teamed up with Oleai Elementary School in beating Garapan in the 2015 finals, 4-1, and then challenged and lost to Private Schools in the 2016 spring title game, 1-2.

Irish Pagarao and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita coached the winning team this season and WSR received a championship trophy at the conclusion of the tournament.

See WSR on Page 26